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Calgary — a tale of two cities

A TIME FOR INNOVATION

A message from the Chamber of Commerce

As I look back on 2016 — it has been one of Calgary, and Alberta's, most challenging times. I see, in fact, two Calgary's. One has been affected heavily by the drop in oil prices. Unemployment has risen to the highest of any major city in Canada. There is a record number of business closures, and office vacancy rates sit around 30 per cent.

There is a second Calgary; one that is rooted in entrepreneurs and businesses that are forging ahead. They are investing. They are growing. They are doing deals and they are hiring. They have said not on my watch will I let this affect me. They are smaller local companies like Cru Juice, Fiasco Gelato, Calgary Elite Roofing and Village Brewery. But they are also larger local companies like Agrium, WestJet, Enbridge, TransCanada and Suncor.

Both Calgarys are real. And both need to be understood and recognized for their struggles, and their successes. The learning from both sides of Calgary's business realities in 2016 is that there are three key ingredients to not only surviving in a downturn, but thriving. They are innovation, productivity and new markets.

Innovation is not just for tech companies. Innovation is a mindset and a practice. It is about adding value, creating



Calgary Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Adam Legge says the city can not only survive in an economic downturn but can thrive through innovation, productivity and grown business through new markets. ELIZABETH CAMERON

new uses and applications. It is finding other ways in which an idea, product, or service can be used through some changes or adaptations. Sometimes it is just a tweak here and there but it creates something that generates new revenue.

Innovation shouldn't be scary or avoided. It should be embraced. It could be as simple as some brainstorm sessions

of what changes could be made to existing products, to some customer research on a market you want to enter into. I firmly believe that the amazing goods, services, technologies and processes used in our oil and gas sector can be innovated to work in other sectors and markets. It takes some focused time to gather a team and brainstorm possibilities.

Productivity is about doing more with less. It is efficiency and improvement. In the boom times, many businesses were too busy to ensure that they were being efficient which resulted in driving up costs. Now that the economy is slower, we need to ensure that we are a productive business community — generating as much profit on our investment as possible.

So look for efficiencies in terms of making processes easier and faster. Look for blockages in your supply chain. Look for better or cheaper suppliers. Figure out if there is anything slowing your employees down and remove those barriers. All of this will work towards ensuring you can create greater profit per dollar of expense. And who doesn't like profit?

For some help in figuring out whether your company can improve its productivity, BDC has developed a great tool to benchmark your productivity against similar companies. It's available for free at BDC.ca/Productivity

Finally, look to grow your business through new markets. This may be as small scale as opening in a new community in Calgary, or finding customers in China. Growth through new markets and customers is a vital way for Canadian companies to expand. Domestic markets are often too small to see revenue growth and new markets create the opportunity. To help determine what markets to move into, do some research on where your customer base is growing nationally or globally. Then work with experts at places like BDC, Export Development Canada, and the trade offices of the governments of Alberta and Canada. Tremendous opportunity exists to grow your business in new markets with some good research and support from experts.

There are more opportunities that lay ahead of us than those lost due to lower oil and gas prices. The pace of technological change is creating new markets, products and ideas every day. Combining the changes in technology, demographics, global populations and preferences, with the tactics of innovation, productivity and new markets will create a solid recipe for growth in the year ahead.

— ADAM LEGGE, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF CALGARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Calgary's economy looking up this year

OPTIMISM AMID CHALLENGES

'Trend is clear,' economist says — worst of the recession over

Jennifer Allford

As we head further into 2017, there are encouraging signs that Calgary has seen the worst of the recession and the city's battered economy is beginning to recover.

Over the last two years, tens of thousands of people in Calgary were thrown out of work after the price of West Texas intermediate crude plummeted from \$100 a barrel to \$27. WTI has stabilized at around \$50 a barrel, bringing some much needed stability to Calgary's economy.

Federal and provincial statistics indicate companies have finished with the waves of massive layoffs and the "worst of the recession may be in the rear view mirror," says Todd Hirsch, the chief economist for ATB Financial. "The trend is clear: most companies have already cut their staffing to the bone and are unlikely to cut much deeper."

While Calgary still has the highest unemployment rate in Alberta, 10.2 per cent at the end of 2016, that's a slight improvement from the month before, 10.3 per cent. Even more important, the jobs being created are full time instead of part time.

"One of the major challenges for Alberta workers in 2016 was the deterioration of job quality — that is, many more part-time jobs replaced full-time positions," says Hirsch. "In December, at least, this started to reverse." There were 18,500 full-time jobs created in Calgary in December and 11,600 fewer part-time jobs. Overall, Alberta ended 2016 with an average unemployment rate of 8.1 per cent.

"The positive job numbers are an encouraging way to start 2017," says Hirsch. "Still, it is far too early to suggest all is well in Alberta's labour market. Even though oil prices have stabilized and the general mood of the economy is improving, the job situation is likely to remain challenging in the first half of the year."

Calgary Economic Development, meanwhile, is staying focused on its 10-year strategy to attract more, diverse employers to the city. A new film centre is attracting productions and new direct flights from China and Mexico are bringing more business travellers and tourists. Several head offices have moved to Calgary in the last year to take advantage of the city's logistics hub, talented workforce and our active, outdoor lifestyle.

"With all the innovative people we meet in this city it's easy for us to feel a sense of optimism," says Mary Moran, president and CEO at Calgary Economic Development. "We're staying focused on those green shoots of recovery that are starting to emerge."

\$50

The price of West Texas intermediate crude has stabilized at around \$50 a barrel, bringing some much needed stability to Calgary's economy.

18,500

There were 18,500 full-time jobs created in Calgary in December and 11,600 fewer part-time jobs.

8.1%

Overall, Alberta ended 2016 with an average unemployment rate of 8.1 per cent.



We're staying focused on those green shoots of recovery that are starting to emerge

Mary Moran,
president and CEO
at Calgary Economic
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Positive job numbers are an encouraging way to start 2017, says economist Todd Hirsch. ISTOCK

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Election 2017 — what to expect

MUNICIPAL POLITICS

Wards could be focus without race for mayor

Krista Sylvester

It's still months away but this year's election is heating up. Or is it?

According to Mount Royal University political scientist Duane Bratt, each municipal election shapes up differently depending on if the mayor race is open or not.

In 2010, there was a significant increase in voter turnout at

53 per cent after former mayor Dave Bronconnier decided to move on after serving as mayor for nine years. In 2010, the focus was on a group of conservative candidates backed by the Manning Centre who were trying to uproot a group of progressive councillors, which resulted in just 39 per cent voter turnout.

So far though, all is quiet on the election front with popular Mayor Naheed Nenshi heading into October's election without any major opponents declared yet — but Bratt says that all could change with the right candidate.

"It depends who runs against him but it would have to be someone really big to defeat him because while he is vulnerable

he remains very popular and we will have to see how it plays out. I'm wondering if we will see a strong conservative challenger," Bratt explains.

How big of a name?

"It would be really intriguing and really liven up civic politics if (conservative MP) Michelle Rempel were to run; I think she would be the type of person that would have a chance — but it's very difficult to beat an incumbent mayor."

Rempel and Nenshi made headlines earlier this month during a Twitter battle over controversial comments the mayor made about "math" being "hard", which many felt was a sexist jab at the female MP.

Without an exciting mayor race, however, the focus would shift to the ward races.

"It's very difficult to defeat a sitting councillor so any opponent needs to come out now if they haven't done so already because it's much harder to go in August or September and try to pull this off."

Bratt believes it'll be interesting to see if there is another slate of candidates backed by the Manning Centre who are targeting progressive candidates including Ward 9 councillor Gian-Carlo Carra, Ward 7 councillor Druh Farrell and Ward 11 councillor Brian Pincott.

To see a full list of candidates, please visit calgary.ca/election.



The upcoming municipal election is sure to bring some new councillors to City Hall. JULIE C. VINCENT

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BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

Ward changes will impact 58 Calgary communities

Krista Sylvester

Now that the dust has settled on all of those contentious council deliberations about ward boundary changes, are you prepared for potentially finding yourself in a different ward?

Many aren't but fortunately the change is months away and while most on council believe the boundary changes are a necessary evil, there are still challenges ahead.

Ward 11 councillor Brian Pincott says the change is positive but he still has some concerns.

"It's an adjustment and adjustments create challenges but I think it was totally necessary; we were out of balance and it will come with different challenges that we will have to deal with," Pincott says.

Council approved changes in an effort to keep the 14 wards as equal as possible across the city but that has created a new problem, according to Pincott, whose ward is changing from including 11 community associations to 25 community associations.

"The concern I have is that we work very hard to make them equal and equal in popu-

lation, but we don't do anything around making sure they are equitable. The boundary changes are going to bring that problem and challenge very quickly to the floor after the election."

Each ward office gets a \$10,000 budget towards community associations, so Pincott says some wards can afford to give up to \$2,000 to a community association but now Ward 11 will have to split that same budget with 25 community associations. On average there are 11 community associations per ward.

"The population numbers are intended to be equal and accounting for growth but when it comes to community associations and the workload and ability to do it — it isn't equit-

able, and how do we make it equitable," Pincott adds.

Ward 12 councillor Shane Keating shares Pincott's concern, though for very different reasons.

"When I started in 2010, I had about 63,000 residents and that is now 103,000 residents. With the ward boundary changes, I have lost two communities but gained one and that puts me at about 92,000 residents. That's a challenge because I am still the fastest growing ward," Keating explains. "It makes a difference in how many people you can meet with and that's really the most valuable thing you can do — meet with people and have conversations."

For more information, email wardboundaries@calgary.ca.

+ WHAT TO EXPECT

It may be confusing but it's not out of the ordinary to change ward boundaries.

The challenge with the year's ward boundary changes taking effect on Oct. 16, is that the entire city will be seeing ward boundary changes as opposed to just one or two wards.

While that doesn't mean every resident will be affected, Mayor Naheed Nenshi says the biggest changes will be in the east side of the city.

"As we move into the municipal election we have significant changes that people need to be aware of but the good news is that ... this is really about population shifting and adapting to that," Nenshi says. "In the meantime your current councillor works very hard for you until election day so you can continue to contact them with anything you need."

City of Calgary manager of Election and Census Paul Denys says there will be a campaign later this year to remind citizens of the changes.

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Paul Denys — fresh blood, same goal



Paul Denys is heading into his first municipal election as the returning officer. JULIE C. VINCENT

PROFILE

New returning officer says he's not feeling pressure of his first election

Krista Sylvester

It may be out with the old and in with the new but the goal remains the same: get more voters out to the polls.

City of Calgary manager of elections and census Paul Denys is heading into his first municipal election later this year as the Chief Presiding Returning Officer with ideas and goals. But if he is feeling any pressure, he's not showing it.

After all, he's stepping into some big shoes to fill as former returning officer Barbara Clifford spent a quarter of a century on the job before retiring last year — but Denys is up to the task.

"There's not really a lot of pressure. I'm just looking to experiment with new ways of approaching some problems that have been around in the past," although incorporating new technology isn't one of them yet.

"We are limited by election legislation on what we can do. Counting machines are not very economical at this stage of the game with how big the city is and how many voting stations we set up."

With a large group of individuals — more than 3,500, that is — working day and night to ensure a seamless voting experience, there is a lot of work that occurs behind the scenes, Denys adds. But that doesn't mean there aren't challenges, and the biggest challenge of all is getting people out to vote.

"It's the age-old challenge of how to make people aware of the election and we are always cognizant of the fact voter turnout is a hot topic issue and we are looking at ways to improve numbers," Denys says.

One of the best ways to improve voter experience is advanced voting — and there are many opportunities for voters to make their ballot count before the actual election.

"It's very easy to vote, it's a very painless process and everyone should try it. We have many different ways people can take advantage of their right to vote."

Every municipal election, the city offers advanced polling stations but people may

not be aware that they can also request mail-in ballots as early as July sent right to their house. Voters who are unable to attend voting stations on election day due to sickness or mobility issues have the option to request a mobile voting station sent to their home.



There really is no excuse for not voting

Paul Denys, Chief Presiding Returning Officer

"There really is no excuse for not voting... it really comes down to voter engagement and people feeling passionately about the issues," he says.

His last message for Calgarians heading into the municipal election in October is one you'll likely hear a lot in the coming months.

"Make sure you get out and vote; it's just a couple of minutes of your life that can have an impact on several years of your life. These are your hard earned tax dollars and voting is your way of having your say about how your money is invested and what direction the city will go in."



Make sure you get out and vote; it's just a couple of minutes of your life that can have an impact on several years of your life. These are your hard earned tax dollars and voting is your way of having your say about how your money is invested and what direction the city will go in

Paul Denys, City of Calgary manager of elections and census

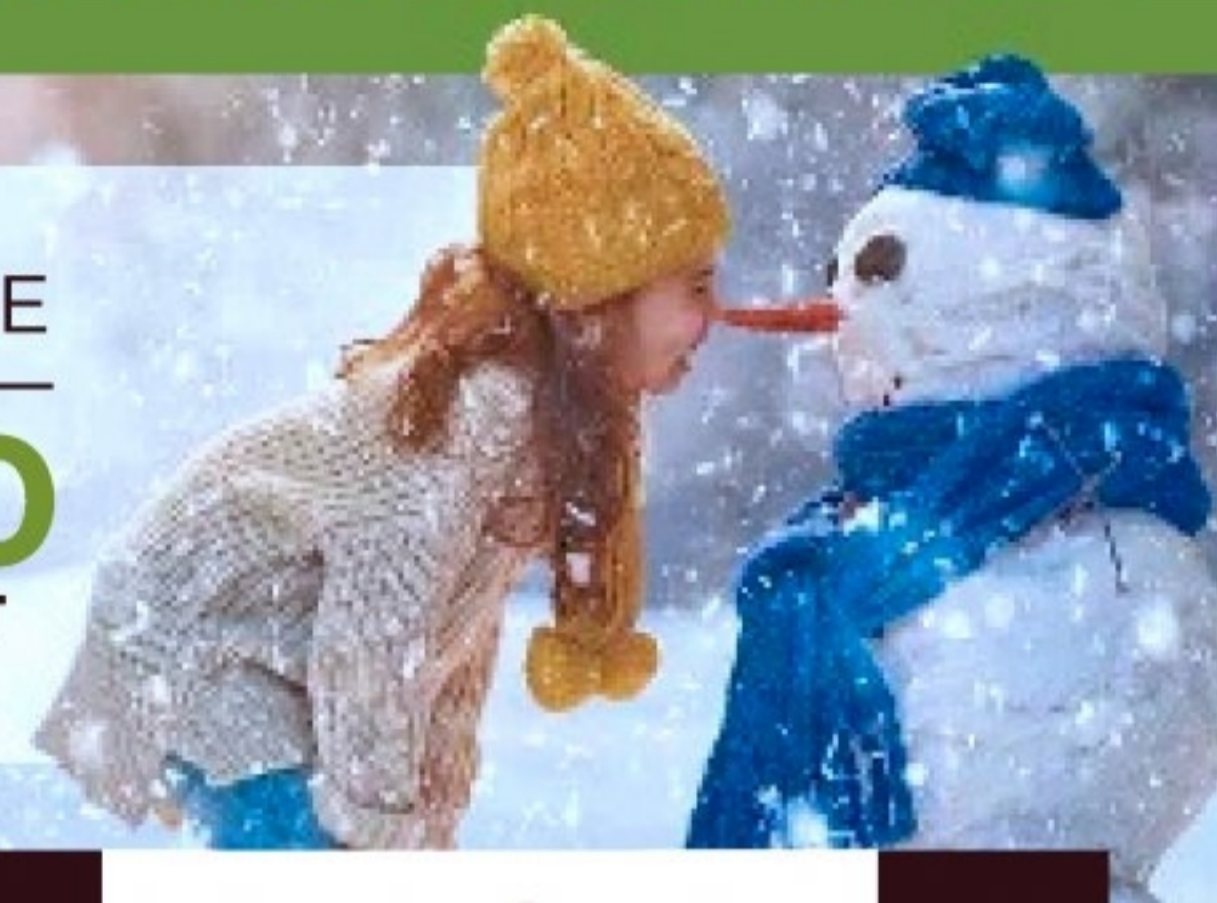


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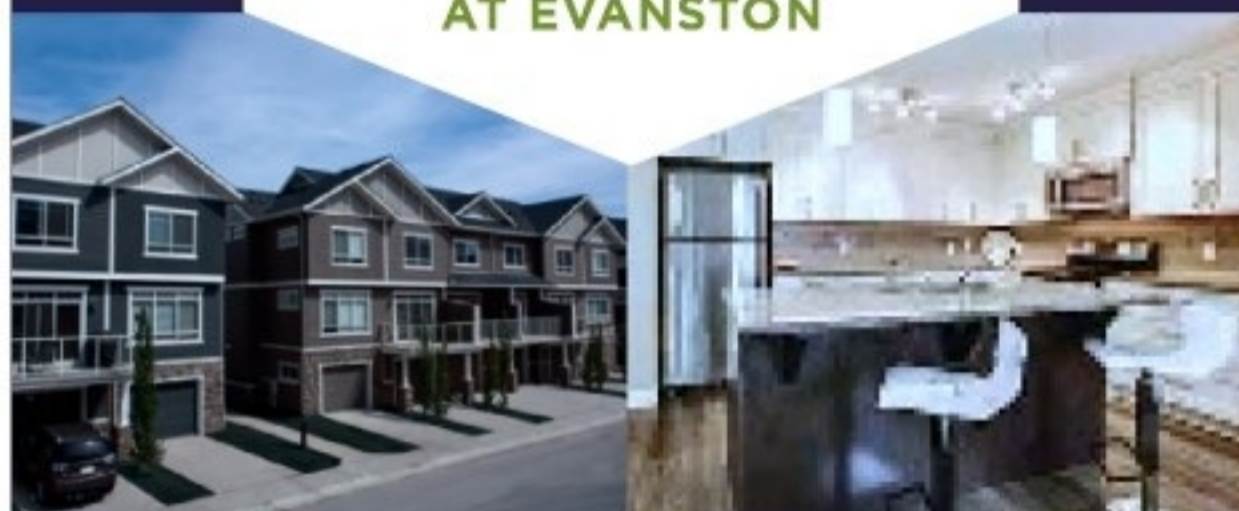
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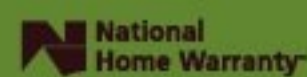
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RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE

Opinions are mixed but overall experts are optimistic

Kathy McCormick

Those in fields other than the housing market have weighed in on Alberta and Calgary growth expectations for 2017 — but with the volatile energy sector, it really is anyone's guess, albeit knowledgeable guesses.

Glimmers of good news in the energy sector have buoyed expectations, but only modest growth is forecast by most authorities this year.

"An expected end to the Alberta recession in 2017 (with expected stability in oil and gas), alongside rebuilding efforts in Fort McMurray, signals a very modest increase in starts," says Altus Group, a Toronto-based real estate research firm, in its Fall 2016 Housing Forecast.

That uptick in the energy sector is expected to change the job market as well, says the firm in its Housing Report

for October 2016. "Oil and gas sector weakness has led to job losses in Calgary and Saskatoon...Next year, positive employment growth is expected...as the drag from the oil and gas sector dissipates."

It warns, however, the "myriad" of recent policy changes, such as tighter mortgage insurance rules, "are creating headwinds for ownership housing demand" across the country, and the uncertainty of a Trump election could have "more potential for disruption" in Canada's housing market in 2017.

For ATB Financial's part, "there are signs that things will

in housing starts



While there are ongoing concerns, most housing experts see signs of improvement ahead. ISTOCK

stabilize and improve slightly in 2017," says its chief economist, Todd Hirsch, in his blog, The Owl. But, "the global headwinds continue to blow," and in Alberta, "the economic backdrop remains cloudy," especially with the highest unemployment numbers in decades.

"Even with stabilization and slight improvement of conditions, a few sectors will continue to be challenged," he says, noting housing is one of those.

"Lower investment in all forms of construction is likely to persist. The good news is that homebuilders have pulled back on supply which has kept the residential real estate market in decent shape considering."

Further, he adds in his December blog: "What's in store for 2017? It's difficult to say with certainty, but there are signs of improving conditions in the energy sector. The an-

nouncement of pipeline expansions, OPEC's agreement to limit oil supply and benchmark crude prices above \$US 50 per barrel have helped bolster optimism in the province. If these trends continue, new home buyers might start gradually coming back into the market next year."

The Conference Board of Canada released its latest forecast in early December saying Alberta will emerge from its

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CANADIAN TIRE

forecast for 2017



The good news is homebuilders have pulled back on supply which has kept the residential real estate market in decent shape

Todd Hirsch, chief economist at ATB Financial

recession and return to positive economic growth in 2017 — but “the road to recovery won’t be easy,” associate director of the board Marie-Christine Bernard said in a news release. It is forecasting real gross domestic product growth of 2.2 per cent for Alberta this year.

Rounding out other predictions is a noted Canadian real estate investor, researcher and author.

“Despite the pipeline announcements and the current ‘positive glow’, our analysis of economics and demographics are showing that 2017 will be

another difficult year in Calgary real estate,” says Don Campbell.

“The housing market is a lagging indicator of the general economics, often lagging by as much as 18-24 months. Whether the economy is growing or shrinking the lag time is about the same.”

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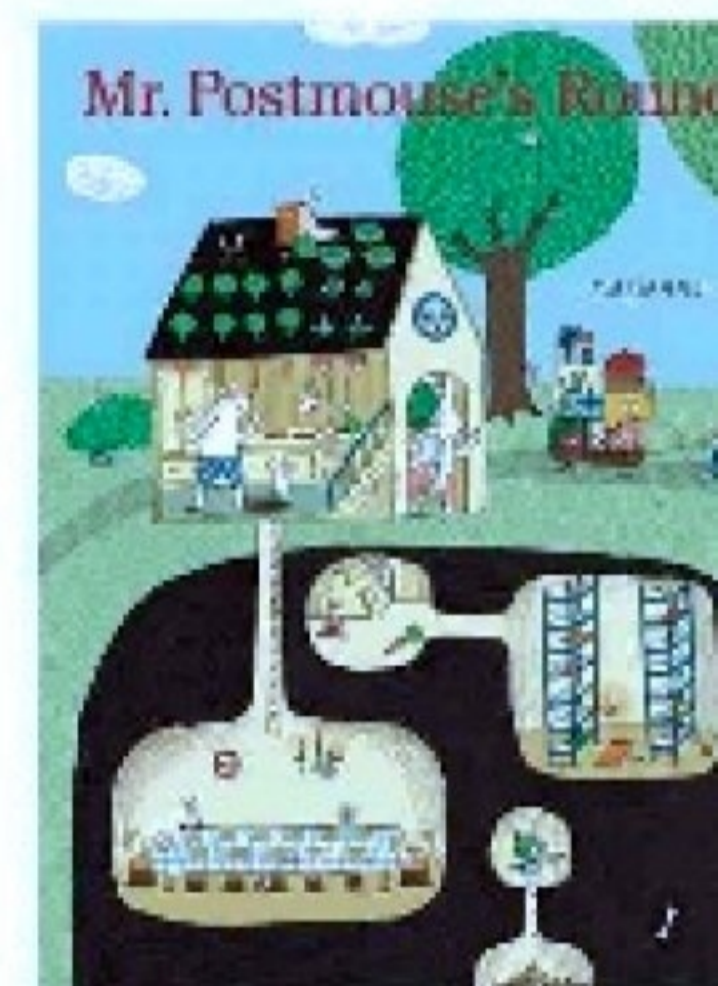
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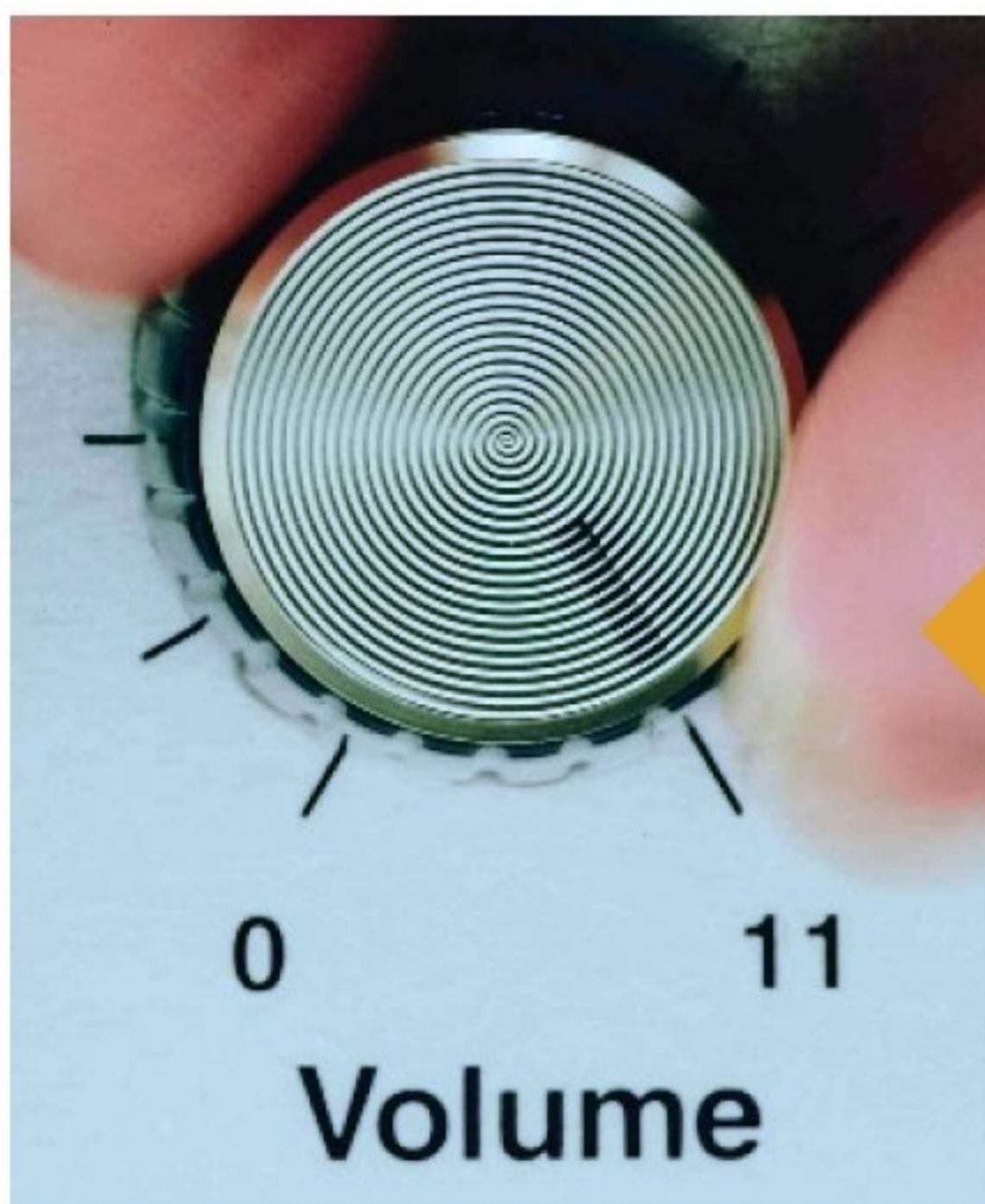


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ECONOMY

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Calgary businesses treading financial waters have graciously been handed a one-year life raft.

On Monday, all but two present councillors voted in favour of throwing \$45 million in savings, otherwise headed for the city's fiscal stability reserve (FSR), at businesses to cap tax rates at a five per cent increase as the city continues to weather an economic storm.

Only councillors Andre Chabot and Diane Colley-Urquhart were against the move.

"To tell my residents we're going to use their money to subsidize private industry; I can't see myself doing it," said Chabot.

But to most members of council, including Mayor Na-

heed Nenshi, this is a short-term "Band-Aid" solution.

"The system of property taxes combined with property value assessments is a really unfair way to tax people," said Nenshi. "If you're going to tax businesses fairly, you should tax them on how they did this year, not on the accumulated wealth they have."

He says the same applies for homeowners, who may not sell their residence for 20 or 30 years.

Previously, council was looking at diverting \$15 million from the FSR, but after further investigation found that wouldn't be enough cash to make a dent in the economic problems some businesses are facing.

Now, with this decision, council is boasting immediate help for 6,000 non-residential taxpayers and more than 9,000 businesses.

But as the mayor noted, this is a one-time program, with one-time savings, and more needs to be done to "fix" the city's cold and mathematical property-tax assessment cycle.

"We cannot do this every year," said Nenshi. "We're going to run out of money in that rainy day fund. It's not bottomless."

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Clara Hughes

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'Presumptive tests' reveal blood

GARLAND TRIAL

Court hears investigators found samples in outbuildings



Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Chemical tests that make blood glow told forensic identification expert Staff Sgt. Tim Walker that there was likely blood in two separate outbuildings of the Garland farm, court heard Monday.

Douglas Garland, 56, is charged with three counts of

first-degree murder for the apparent June 2014 slayings of Alvin and Kathy Liknes and their five-year-old grandson Nathan O'Brien.

Walker, who was the lead for the Calgary-area RCMP forensic identification unit in 2014, said he used "presumptive tests" in an effort to find blood on the Garland farm during his first examination July 5, 2014 — the day after Sgt. Troy Switzer, a paramedic for the Alberta Emergency Response Team (ERT), stormed the property.

Switzer told the court that he and the rest of ERT were called to the Garland farm for a possible "hostage rescue," but upon finding no bodies or persons needing medical assistance, they began search-

ing the property.

It was during that search that Switzer said they found a smouldering "extremely hot" burn barrel and a black duffle bag in an outbuilding containing a knife, two pairs of handcuffs and a billy club.

Following Switzer's testimony, Walker told court the

fore taking swabs of the apparent blood to be sent for lab testing and confirmation.

In his examination of two outbuildings on the Garland farm, Walker said, he found what appeared to be blood on light switches of both, after conducting the presumptive tests.

large tarp and began sifting," he said, adding they found bits of electronic microchips, cloth and burnt paper.

Walker said he returned to the farm the following day to sift through a large ash pile found on the farm.

They began by skimming the top layer, and then "almost like peeling an onion skin ... removing layers as we could." Walker said the search revealed what looked like a tooth, a pair of glasses, bone and more pieces of electronic microchips.

Court heard from three Calgary Police Service members who are dog handlers and trainers for the canine unit. They testified about cadaver dog Sully and their search of

the farm between July 4 and July 6, 2014.

In multiple locations on the Garland farm, including near two outbuildings, the burn barrel, ash pit and greenhouse, the officers testified that Sully alerted them to scents of a human body.

"I noticed a really big difference in Sully's behaviour.... I'd never seen something like this from him," said Const. Darcy Williams. "His nose was to the ground and he was going back and forth between the area."

Witnesses on Tuesday are expected to include the officer who seized Garland's shoes at the time of his arrest, an officer who will detail injuries noticed on Garland the day of his arrest and others.

"I noticed a really big difference in Sully's behaviour.... I'd never seen something like this from him."

Darcy Williams

forensic identification unit conducted a "Blue Star" exam, spraying a chemical that causes blood to become fluorescent and using Hemosticks (which also cause blood to glow) be-

Walker told the court he then began the tedious task of sifting through "embers, ash and that kind of debris" from the burn barrel.

"We emptied them onto a



1 Staff Sgt. Tim Walker testified that tests revealed what is believed to be blood on inside light switches of this building at the Garland farm.

2 Aerial view of the Garland farm, marked by Calgary Police Services to show layout.

3 Calgary Police Service cadaver-detection dog Sully, who alerted officers of areas of interest (places he could possibly smell blood/flesh) on the Garland farm. CONTRIBUTED

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Council drills down on bid

SPORTS

Administration gives outline of process for Olympic games



Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

The Calgary Bid Exploration Committee (CBEC) will be delivering its first recommendation to council in May, and that timeline doesn't have much wiggle room.

On Monday night, councillors got their first chance to put questions to administration on the process of gauging whether or not the city should submit a bid for the 2026 Winter Olympic Games.

Kyle Ripley, director of recreation for the city, gave an update of CBEC's work to council, noting that it was on track despite the tight deadline. Nobody from CBEC was present.

Coun. Evan Woolley was the first to step up to the



Council had its first chance to put questions to administration about the Olympic bid exploration process so far Monday night. THE CANADIAN PRESS

plate, asking how CBEC was engaging with provincial and federal governments on a potential bid.

Ripley explained that both levels are interested and are waiting to see the city's pre-

liminary numbers before making a commitment.

"They've not said no unequivocally at this point, because if they did we would be coming back to council," said Ripley.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi said a no from either level of government would probably put a full stop on any further exploration.

Nenshi said he raised the issue with the PM before

“They’ve not said no unequivocally at this point.”

Kyle Ripley

Christmas who advised him to keep working, adding the feds would like to see the numbers.

Coun. Druh Farrell, one of the few opponents of the plan, asked about the possibility of a joint bid with Edmonton, citing the new arena there.

Nenshi spoke up at that question, explaining that the IOC is interested in bids that use venues across the country, but also look for bids to originate in a single city.

Coun. Peter Demong had concerns about the budget, because the original pitch from Calgary Sport Tourism Authority suggested up to 25 per cent of the cost would be covered by donations.

Ripley said while CBEC has received a lot of in-kind donations, including valuable advice from consultants, there had been no cash contributions yet.

INVESTIGATION

Call for probe in jail drug deaths

The Alberta Liberals want the government to call a public inquiry into all drug-related deaths of inmates in provincial jails since 2012.

Liberal Leader David Swann said there has been a spike in the number of drug-related police investigations at the Edmonton Remand Centre over the past year.

Swann said he suspects the same thing is happening at jails across the province due to the growing problem of dangerous opioids such as fentanyl.

"We have a very significant increase in deaths and near deaths in both remand and correctional institutions and it appears to be related to opioids," Swann said in an interview Monday.

The common thread in these cases is that inmates have died as a direct result of drugs being smuggled into jails, he said.

In a letter to the government, Swann said a fatality inquiry should look at how to better prevent drugs from getting into correctional facilities.

Swann, who is a physician and a former medical health officer, said the inquiry should also review the effectiveness of staff training and addiction treatment programs.

In his letter, Swann cites Edmonton Police Service statistics that show the number of investigations involving drugs at correctional facilities in the Capital Region jumped to 127 last year, compared to 65 in 2015.

The Edmonton Remand Centre is the largest in the province and can currently house up to 2,000 inmates awaiting trial or sentencing.

The Liberals have also asked Alberta's ombudsman to review drug-related near-deaths in the province's jails.

Swann said the health of both inmates and corrections staff are at risk from fentanyl, a powerful drug that has been linked to hundreds of overdose deaths in Canada.

Erez Raz, an occupational health and safety representative with the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, said he supports the call for an inquiry.


Raz, a former correctional officer, said drugs coming into jails is a growing problem and that drug detection training is not being taken seriously enough by the government.

Opioids such as fentanyl are harder to deal with, he said.

"Security measures need to be beefed up."

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CRIME

Traffic spat triggers shot in parking lot

A number of firearms-related charges have been laid after a shot was fired in a central Alberta parking lot over a traffic argument.

The shooting happened early one morning last July outside a Red Deer convenience store, where a truck driver tried to confront the driver of a car.

RCMP say a man at the wheel of the car allegedly pointed a handgun at the first

vehicle and shot at it as it was leaving the area, but no one was hurt. The car driver then left, but later abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot.

Police say a suspect was arrested Sunday afternoon and remains in custody, pending a Thursday court appearance in Red Deer.

Mathew Joseph Duda, a 29-year-old Red Deer resident, faces a total of 11 charges.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Crash involving semi and car leaves one dead

One person died in a crash east of Calgary Monday afternoon.

Traffic had to be rerouted for hours around the wreck, which happened between a semi and a car on Highway 24 between Glenmore Trail and Highway 22x around 1:15 p.m.

There was no indication if the victim was male or female.

RCMP were on scene to determine the cause of the crash. METRO

Woman robbed when she stops to help four women

A Good Samaritan who stopped to help four women by an apparently broken down car was robbed and assaulted on the Trans-Canada Highway near Highway 68 on Saturday. Police say the woman was assaulted by one of the women, and then all four women got into her car and drove away. Karine Beaver, 25, and Michelle Twoyoungmen, 27, have been charged.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Judge rules mother guilty

RYAN LOVETT CASE

Lovett found criminally negligent in son's death

A Calgary woman who treated her son with holistic remedies before he died of a strep infection has been found guilty of criminal negligence causing death.

But the judge issued a judicial stay on a second charge against Tamara Lovett of failing to provide the necessities of life.

Lovett gave her seven-year-old son Ryan dandelion tea and oil of oregano when he developed the infection that kept him bedridden for 10 days in March 2013.

The judge said Lovett "gambled away" her son's life.

The judge said it should have been obvious to Lovett that Ryan was suffering from more than an

ear infection and that he was on a "downward spiral."

A doctor testified that Ryan could have been saved if he had been given antibiotics. Yet, the judge pointed out, it did not occur to Lovett to see a doctor.

"A reasonable parent would have brought Ryan in to see a doctor," Justice Kristine Eidsvik said in her verdict Monday. "Ryan did not get better, but got worse and worse."

Alberta's chief medical exam-

iner testified the boy's body was full of group A streptococcus, which caused his organs to fail.

The medical examiner also said it appeared Ryan died before paramedics responded to a panic-stricken, early-morning 911 call from Lovett.

Just a couple of days before he died, he was complaining of pain in his leg, his eyes became jaundiced and he couldn't stand on his own, she said during a police interview. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Tamara Lovett with her son. CONTRIBUTED

REBEL TV

Alleged assault of journalist at march prompts probe

Edmonton police say they are investigating an alleged assault said to have occurred Saturday at a rally held at the Alberta legislature in support of the Women's March on Washington.

The complainant is a reporter for The Rebel TV, an online outlet devoted to right-wing commentary, activism and reporting.

In video released by The Rebel, reporter Sheila Gunn Reid is seen attempting to interview an attendant at the rally, which drew more than 2,000 people to support American protesters opposed to the presidency of Donald Trump. The man asks her several times to "go away," then threatens to break her camera when she doesn't.

The video appears to show the man shoving his hand into the camera lens. He melted into the crowd afterward, with no one around attempting to stop him.

"He just hit me in the face!" Reid says. A female bystander tries to calm the situation, telling Reid: "You deserve to be angry ... We need to (ensure) nothing more happens. I'm pushing (the man) away."

Reid addressed the woman, saying "You feminist! That guy just hit me in the face! I'm the problem, you victim-blamer? He punched me in the face!"

The woman encouraged Reid to contact security.

Rebel "commander" Ezra Levant said the video raises several issues.

"There's something weird going on at a women's march when

a man assaults a woman and the reaction of the assembled marchers is to assist him in scurrying away and to denounce the victim," he said.

A news photographer working for The Canadian Press was on the scene of the alleged assault. Levant asked why none of his photos were published.

Canadian Press Editor-in-Chief Stephen Meurice said the wire service did not suppress the story.

"The Canadian Press does not have any pictures of the alleged altercation between the protester and the Rebel Media reporter. The photographer who was

covering the protest for us, Jason Franson, did not have a good view of the apparent altercation. He shot a couple of frames immediately afterward, but by that point the protester

who is alleged to have struck the reporter's camera was already gone," he said in a statement.

Levant added the photographer jostled Reid when both were attempting to get similar shots.

"That CP reporter had some denigrating words for Sheila and actually physically bumped her," he said.

Meurice said the photographer was trying to get a good shot.

"He maintains that he stepped in front of (Reid) to get a shot of some protesters when she refused several requests to make some room for him, but there was no physical contact between them. Nothing in the publicly released Rebel video contradicts his account." THE CANADIAN PRESS

There's something weird going on at a woman's march when a man assaults a woman and the reaction ... is to assist him in scurrying away. Ezra Levant

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City buskers free to amp up after one-year pilot

ENTERTAINMENT

Cost scrapped in favour of community standards



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Busking in Calgary can now turn amps up to 11 (as long as that's below the 65-decibel level.)

After a year-long pilot, where the city's community standards department opted to charge buskers a premium to amplify, buskers can now use speakers and amps as they please — and it's gratis.

The only caveat is the noise levels must fall within the city's community standards bylaw, which prohibits ruckuses between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., and could land you in hot water if you're playing above 65 decibels measured over an hour-long period.

Although the change seems quiet, the city's 2016 busking license pilot has made a few tweaks to how performers work.

Sarah Iley manager of the city's Culture and Community Services, said they got rid of the \$50 busk stop identification, which originally gave performers the right to amplify

in set locations.

"It got overly complicated," said Iley. "Rather than having to kind of purchase the right to amplify, we're just recognizing that busking amplification is the same as any other kind of sound emanating in the public space — anything covered by the community standards bylaw."

Now, it's a free-for-all. Buskers can pick up free ID, but must pay \$25 to perform at transit stations.

Kate Stevens, a 17-year-old performer says this really opens up the types of busking people can expect to see on Calgary streets.

"I have friends who are beatboxers and they now can be amplified on the street," Stevens said. "It's really good to get that out there."

Stevens started seriously busking at 12 and feared her songs wouldn't be loud enough without an amp, back then her ukulele was electric, but now she's grown to love intimate acoustic sets when she hits the streets to perform.

Iley noted other tweaks coming from the pilot include new places for busk stops, and signing up for the busking program online. "We've given them the opportunity to put their profiles up online," Iley said, noting the profiles anecdotally helped performers get gigs. "We're getting a sense of the richness and diversity of the busking community."



I have friends who are beatboxers and they now can be amplified on the street. It's really good to get that out there.

Kate Stevens



Kyle Green, a local busker and musician, plays guitar in the Beltline. JENNIFER FRIESEN/ FOR METRO

DEVELOPMENT

Council still not there on Highland Park project



Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

At what was described as a "hot mess" by Coun. Druh Farrell, Calgary City Council worked for hours on the Highland Park golf course development, only to defer the matter to March 20.

The developer, Maple Projects Inc., wants to build up to 2,070 units over 50 acres at the now-defunct Highland Park Golf Course. Area residents have been pushing for changes to the design, and protection of the green space.

Councillors did make some headway, approving first and second reading on some of the bylaws needed for the development to go ahead, and altering them slightly to require slope adaptive design. Slope adaptive design means the building would be built into the hill, rather than having fill brought in to make the area more level.

Area Coun. Sean Chu proposed a number of amendments, and not all of them were accepted. A plan to require 85 Per cent of the parking to be underground or within the structures was defeated.

Speaking with reporters after the matter had been set over, Mayor Naheed Nenshi explained that council approved most of the development, except for a large central portion of the development that would have a public space.

"They sent administration away to better work with the applicant and the community on the green space plan," he said.

"I don't think anybody thinks this is a great plan," said the mayor. "It's between those who think this is as good as it's going to get, and those who said it's got to get better."



An artist's rendering of the proposed development at the former Highland Park Golf Course. COURTESY MAPLE PROJECTS INC.

DOWNTOWN CORE

Council approves economic summit

Council voted unanimously to support Coun. Druh Farrell's pitch to hold a downtown economic summit to discuss the new reality in the core.

Coun. Farrell said after giving small business a tax break today — and noting most of those were outside the core — it is time to help the core specifically.

"What we dealt with this morning is the symptom of a weak downtown," she said. "Forty per cent of our non-residential tax base comes from the downtown core."

The summit could be held in early March, according to Calgary Economic Development (CED) president and CEO Mary Moran.

CED would organize the summit. It's already holding one in early February on subjects such as agribusiness, creating an inland port, and the tech sector.

The summit proposed by Farrell, however, will focus on real estate specifically, and how to adapt to a new, leaner oil industry that might not need the office space available in the core.

Moran said CED's real estate committee, which is made up of industry volunteers, has already been at work developing suggestions and strategies.

She spoke about the possibility of converting commercial space to residential space as just one example of the ideas being floated to help transform the downtown.

"We have assessed Calgary and now were going out and benchmarking it against other jurisdictions to see if that can actually be done here," said Moran.

Farrell said because this is a structural recession rather than a cyclical one, action will be needed sooner or later.

"What we're learning is that downtown isn't going to bounce back and we can't just wait this one out," she said

BRODIE THOMAS/METRO



40 per cent of our non-residential tax base comes from the downtown core.

Coun. Druh Farrell

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One-time relief not a fix: Mayor

TAXATION

Assessment model needs to change, local businesses say



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Softening the tax burden for business is important, but as the entrepreneurial community suggests, the municipality's property assessment tax model needs to change.

On Monday, after approving \$45 million from the city's savings toward capping 6,000 non-residential property tax rates at less than five per cent increases, council, and the business community made it clear the assessment issue is not behind us.

Minutes after approving the pricey handout, the councillors

in favour of the motion stood behind a podium at a press conference across town from city hall. The chosen venue was CBN Commercial Solutions, as the mayor noted this is where Calgary's first Stampede poster was printed.

"We are one of the longest-running companies in Calgary, our business has been here for more than 100 years," said Todd Schmutz of CBN. "Two weeks ago we received our property tax assessment, and I can tell you, because we are outside the downtown core, it included the potential for a big tax increase — this program will drop our tax increase by more than 50 per cent."

Adam Legge, president of the Calgary Chamber, described the offering as a pragmatic solution to a very serious problem.

"I've heard firsthand just how challenging a time this can be for so many businesses," said Legge. "The reality is, we're seeing a continuation of accumulative increase in costs being borne

"We have to look out for taxpayers, all taxpayers."
Coun. Andrew Chabot

by business."

Legge said the City of Calgary is Canada's only order of government mitigating these increasing costs; minimum wage, carbon levies and corporate income tax increases.

"The municipal government is the only level of government putting dollars forward to cushion the blow for businesses in challenging economic times — and likely the least capable of doing so," Legge said. "While we have a solution for 2017, we need a longer-term fix."

Mary Moran, president with the Calgary Economic Development echoed these thoughts.

"There's still a lot of work to be done to ensure our compan-



The city approved a five per cent tax cap program for non-residential property owners. ELIZABETH CAMERON/FOR METRO

ies are able to be more innovative, and globally competitive," Moran said. "We've heard from companies that this one-time tax relief will help them adjust to the new reality of our economy."

Couns. Andre Chabot or Diane Colley-Urquhart, both of whom voted against the measure, weren't at the media gathering.

Before the final decision

came down however, Chabot addressed his colleagues during debate.

"Although I'm a small business man, I know the implications of it, and who would a small business be to look a gift horse in the mouth and say no?" said Chabot. "Of course they'll all like this. But we have to look out for taxpayers, all taxpayers."

+ BALANCING ACT

When the city's downtown core slimmed down with layoffs and "right sizing" at the dawn of Alberta's brutal economic downturn, property assessments went down with them.

But because the City of Calgary's taxation system is a revenue neutral calculation, the slack in the core had to be made up by other office and storefront owners either outside the core, or in typically lower-value buildings.

This meant more than 1,000 businesses were slated to face at least 30 per cent in tax increases — a daunting dollar to face in the downturn.

In late 2016 council was brainstorming ways to soften the blow, and voted in favour of dishing out \$15 million in relief to small businesses.

But because of the governance act, council wasn't able to give one business a break over others, and were seeking the best way to dole out cash within strict taxation laws.

AWARENESS

Student athletes crank the volume for mental health



Elizabeth Cameron
For Metro | Calgary

Students at SAIT turned up the volume and got their spin on to challenge mental health stigma on Monday.

A total of 100 spin bikes were set up in SAIT's main atrium for an hour-long spin class to kickoff the third-annual Make Some Noise for Mental Health Campaign.

The campaign, which runs until Feb. 12, brings SAIT student-athletes and mental health advocates together to open up conversations about mental health on campus.

"It's about getting people engaged with mental health issues, and give people a platform to have a conversation about sometimes scary topics," said Sheldon Kennedy, honorary chair of the Make Some Noise for Mental Health Campaign.

He said making noise for mental health can be a simple conversation between friends.

"Through my experience, the biggest myth out there is we have to have all the answers and fix our friends



Simran Dhani and Samantha Carpenter of the SAIT Trojans Women's volleyball team at the Make Some Noise for Mental Health Campaign kickoff Monday. ELIZABETH CAMERON/FOR METRO

that are struggling. I don't believe that's the case — we just need to show up and be a listener," he said.

Samantha Carpenter plays middle for the SAIT Trojans women's volleyball team, and hoped the sight of 100 spinning athletes would prompt some questions.

"Before this campaign, I think a lot of people were in the dark about where to go for (mental health) services," she said.

Although she doesn't personally struggle with mental illness, Carpenter has seen

friends and family members fighting their own battles.

"We always talk about mental toughness as a team, and part of that comes from what we're struggling with in the outside world," Carpenter said.

She hoped the group spin class, held at SAIT's central atrium, would encourage fellow students to ask questions about mental health on campus.

"Don't stay silent, I want you to get out there and tell people you're not OK," Carpenter said.



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Expert has questions on Internet ruling

INFRASTRUCTURE

Cybera details what they need from the CRTC



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

It's been about a month since the CRTC ruled that access to

high speed Internet should be a basic service across Canada — which was a big win for Albertans, especially those in rural areas.

The CRTC has set up a \$750 million fund to roll out infrastructure, and make sure everyone can get the minimum speeds of 50 Mbps downloading, and 10 Mbps uploading.

As plans are set in motion, there are still a few questions in the air.

For one, the CRTC didn't include any pricing guidelines; instead, they're relying on market forces to even out price structure.

Barb Carra, VP of Alberta technical agency Cybera, hopes that new infrastructure will allow for more competition, especially in rural areas, to keep prices affordable.

"In some places that may work, but in others we may have to look at additional regulations

to make it happen — or other approaches to help keep the market active in those areas," Carra said.

When talking about the infrastructure itself, Alberta has already spent time and money laying down its Supernet fibre infrastructure.

Carra said having something like that already in place could help — or hinder — efforts going forward.

"The fact is, we have an ad-



We have an advantage because the Supernet's in the ground.

Barb Carra

vantage because the Supernet's in the ground," she explained. "But it might make it more dif-

ficult to qualify or be eligible for some of those additional funding programs, that would allow us to expand what we already have."

Carra said the CRTC's role going forward will really be in monitoring and continued regulation, to make sure these funds are properly deployed and major gaps are addressed — especially when it comes to Alberta's First Nations environments, which have a real need for better infrastructure.



Minister of Environment Shannon Phillips outlined three new energy efficiency programs. AARON CHATHA/METRO

ENERGY

Province 'should be leading' in efficiency

The Alberta government is creating a roadmap to give Alberta a long-term energy-efficiency vision — beginning with a three-program starter kit.

The first program is a residential, no-cost energy saving initiative. This includes free installations of lighting, water fixtures and programmable thermostats in some homes.

The second program focuses on rebates for customers at retail outlets for insulation and appliances.

Finally, there will be a savings program for businesses and non-profits that will offer incentives for using high efficacy products, culled from a comprehensive list.

This is only the beginning, according to Environment Minister Shannon Phillips.

"These initial programs will work to get the ball rolling as we work to re-invest carbon levy revenues to programs that will benefit citizens, households, businesses and communities."

Energy Efficiency Alberta, a newly-formed government agency, will be in charge of delivering on the initiatives.

The programs are based on

recommendations made by an energy conservation advisory panel.

For the average Albertan, Phillips said it would be hard to pin down the cost of a fully energy efficient home — stating it depends on what home owners have already done, the age of their own and other factors.

She did, however, say some of the initiatives they're pushing are simple and cost effective, like switching out to LED lighting, faucet aerators and programmable thermostats.

"It's actually quite amazing what you can do with those very simple changes," she said. "And those are exactly the kinds of programs our province is looking at supporting."

The government is also looking to explore the possibility of solar farms to power its operations.

On top of lowering emissions, Phillips said the programs will create about 50 jobs for every \$1 million invested.

"I believe, as an energy province, when it comes to efficiency, Alberta should always be leading, never following."

AARON CHATHA/METRO

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The environmentally-minded company was previously putting on productions in Edmonton before relocating to Cochrane. COURTESY/ DUANIA DEL BEN

Theatre company moves in

COCHRANE

Teatro Dell'Eco already has four new shows slotted for 2017



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

There might be a drop in Cochraneites attending the Calgary theatre circuit — they've got their own homegrown stage plays to attend now.

Teatro Dell'Eco has moved into town, and has already planned four new shows in the first half of 2017.

This includes a classical music concert, a satirical comedy, an environment play and an improvised musical.

Teatro dell'Eco is the brainchild of artistic director Duania Del Ben, who originally founded the company in Italy, 2007.

"The idea was to promote messages which are important to society," Del Ben explained. "One of the most important messages we wanted to promote was about the

environment."

She restarted the company when she moved to Edmonton in 2013, and has now brought it with her to Cochrane — but through all the transitions, the values have never changed.

One of their first projects is an environmental collaboration with the Town of Cochrane, about upcoming organic waste collection program.

The play itself promotes the program, but it's not a collection of lecturers boasting the merits of garbage collection.

"It's still a magical play.

It's not really technical — it's about how we can be more environmentally friendly," Del Ben said. "It's not just about the Cochrane area, but all over Alberta. It can be applied everywhere."

That's Del Ben's main focus now — they wrapped up auditioning local talent just over a month ago.

The play will debut in April, but before that, the season

will kick off with a concert by the Vaughn String Quartet, and an adaptation of the

Screwtape Letters by James Forsyth. The season ends in May with a 90 minute musical, created based on audience suggestions, by Grindstone Comedy.

"This is what we have to start, to see what people like and what we can add," Del Ben said.



The idea was to promote messages which are important to society.

Duania Del Ben

MENTAL HEALTH

Comics combat stigma



Elizabeth Cameron
For Metro | Calgary

Cracking jokes about mental illness might not be your idea of a good time, but that's exactly what Rena Far did last night.

Standing Up for Mental Health, organized by the University of Calgary's Mental Health Awareness Club (MHAC), invited 11 first-time comics to get on stage and talk frankly about their mental health — nothing was off limits.

"Each of us is going to include a bit about our own mental health experiences, good or bad," said Rena Far, co-president of the MHAC and stand-up rookie.

The performers spent the past weekend writing jokes and preparing their routines for a sold-out audience at Yuk Yuk's Comedy Club.

"It's a great opportunity for us — and for me personally — to talk about topics we'd be uncomfortable with bringing up in a serious manner, but are easier to bring it up in the context of a comedy show," the health sciences student said.

"We know there's a big connection between being able to laugh and being able to be mentally healthy."

Far said she learned a lot about herself during the three-day writing process.

"I really do love to laugh, when I can find the strength in me to reach out to people and share laughs with them, it really helps with my own mental health as well," she said.

"I think the comedic atmosphere is a great first step towards breaking that barrier and normalizing the conversation around mental health," Far added.

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Uber and Airbnb bring privacy issues

TECHNOLOGY

Watchdog looks into complaints around sharing economy

The federal privacy watchdog is looking into complaints against so-called "sharing economy" companies for the first time, Torstar has learned.

In documents obtained under access-to-information law, privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien's office suggested sharing-economy companies such as Uber and Airbnb are creating a "growing risk" to Canadians' private information.

The key question, according to the documents, is who ultimately controls extremely sensitive personal information such as location data and financial information.

"In the sharing economy, certain personal information — going well beyond that traditionally needed for reserving lodging and hailing taxis — is collected to establish identity and trust," the documents read.

"It is of great concern what might happen with (personal information) in the sharing economy in the event of a breach, especially given lack of clarity regarding accountability."

In other words, unlike hail-



Reports in 2014 revealed that Uber had the ability to track users' movements in real time. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

ing a cab or booking a hotel room, some sharing-economy apps compile massive amounts of data on their users. A ride-sharing app can know where you usually travel — your work, your house, a favourite restaurant — and when you usually go there.

Therrien's office confirmed earlier this month they have now received a number of complaints about sharing economy companies potentially violating Canadians' privacy.

"I can tell you that we are still in the early stages of looking at this issue," Tobi Cohen,

+ PAST CASES

Uber has run into its fair share of privacy concerns south of the border.

A December 2016 report from the Centre for Investigative Reporting suggested employees at the "ride-booking" company could track the movement of ex-spouses, celebrities and politicians.

In 2014, reports revealed the company had a "God View" of their service, which could track users' movements in real time.

a spokesperson for Therrien, wrote in an email.

"I can, however, confirm that we have received several complaints tied to the sharing economy."

Cohen said the office would not go into any detail about the complaints, due to confidentiality provisions.

Torstar reached out to Uber and Airbnb, two companies considered standard bearers for the sharing economy. Uber Canada spokeswoman Susie Heath said the company "(doesn't) have anything to add" to the issue. Repeated requests to Airbnb were not returned. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Edmonton driver Stefan Rzdziński KEVIN MAIMANN/METRO

Edmonton speed racer belongs with the pros

Kevin Maimann
Metro|Edmonton

Four sleepless days on a cellphone put Edmonton race car driver Stefan Rzdziński on track for the race of his dreams.

Rzdziński took on the world's top drivers at the Race of Champions Nations Cup in Miami over the weekend — after gathering nearly 10,000 online votes to get there. What's more incredible is that he won two out of three heats, which included superstar and 2016 Indianapolis 500 winner Alexander Rossi.

"The first couple days, it was pretty cool hanging out with all those guys. A lot of them are my heroes," Rzdziński said. "But then on Sunday it was my one chance to do my thing and just prove I could do what I knew I could and what I've been preparing for my whole life."

Just a few weeks ago, the 24-year-old never thought he'd ever do something like this.

He said he was sitting in his office at work when he got word that he was one of 10 North American finalists, and that the one who could drum up the most online votes would go to Miami.

"I didn't sleep. I contacted everybody I knew. I personally messaged every single person in my phone," Rzdziński said.

"Once we had enough initial people who were sharing it and trying to get on board, it kind of took on a life of its own."

Soon, Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson, Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi and Alberta Premier Rachel Notley were on board.

In the end, he got more than 9,300 votes.

"I could write a book about those four-and-a-half days alone," he said.

"I definitely learned a lot and I'm just so thankful for them that they got me here."

RICK MERCER REPORT

#rickmercerreport

TONIGHT Rick's a smooth operator as he maintains the ice road between Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk, NWT.

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ITALY

Questions linger after avalanche

Italian emergency crews pulled three wiggling, white sheepdog puppies out Monday from under tons of snow and rubble at an avalanche-struck hotel, lifting spirits even as the search for 22 people still missing dragged on five days after the disaster.

One more body was located, raising the death toll to seven, and the first survivors of the avalanche were released from the hospital. Questions intensified, however, into whether Italian authorities underestimated the risks facing the snowbound resort in the hours before the deadly avalanche.

Five days after up to 60,000 tons of snow, rocks and uprooted trees plowed into the Hotel Rigopiano in central Italy, rescue crews were still digging by hand or with shovels and chainsaws in hopes of finding more survivors. An excavator reached the site, northeast of Rome, to speed up the search.

The discovery of the three Abruzzo sheepdog puppies in the boiler room raised spirits, even as rescuers located a seventh body.

Jubilant emergency crews carried the pups out in their arms, with one firefighter burying his face in the fluffy white fur to give the dog a kiss. The puppies were born last month to the hotel's resident sheepdogs, Nuvola and Lupo, and were prominently featured on the hotel's Facebook page. Their parents had found their own way out after the Wednesday afternoon avalanche.

Firefighter spokesman Luca Cari, however, stressed that the puppies were found in an isolated part of the hotel and didn't necessarily signal any new hope for finding human survivors.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New presidency threatens multiple trade agreements

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

U.S. pulled out of 12-country Pacific Rim deal

Setting itself apart from a never-say-die Japan, Canada resigned itself to the death of the Trans-Pacific Partnership on Monday after President Donald Trump made good on his promise to pull the United States out of the trade pact.

Trump called getting out of the TPP "a great thing for the American workers" as he signed an executive order formally removing the U.S. from the controversial 12-country Pacific Rim deal.

There was no immediate comment from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau or Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia

Freeland, who are in Calgary for a two-day cabinet retreat where how best to deal with the Trump team is the main preoccupation.

Canada had been taking a wait-and-see approach to the TPP, with the Liberal government launching a sweeping consultation that appeared

“A TPP without the U.S. would be incredibly difficult.” Yoshihide Suga

designed to postpone a decision until the U.S. resolved the question of whether or not to take part.

Asked whether the government believes the deal can be salvaged, Freeland spokesman Alex Lawrence would only say: "The agreement cannot enter into force without the United States."

Japan, however, continued

to cling to the hope that there was room to salvage the deal by changing Trump's mind.

"A TPP without the U.S. would be incredibly difficult, but we do have a window until 2018, when the treaty needs to be ratified," Yoshihide Suga, a top adviser to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, told

American broadcaster CNBC.

"We believe we still have an opportunity to convince the U.S. about the importance of free trade."

Abe has personally met Trump to push the merits of the deal. Japan has also urged fellow TPP countries, including Canada, to push Trump to reconsider.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NAFTA's fate unclear

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will meet the new U.S. president within the next several weeks, as the incoming American administration talks to its northern and southern neighbours about a revised North American Free Trade Agreement.

A spokesman for Donald Trump confirmed the upcoming discussions as he held his first daily White House briefing Monday and took questions on trade, counter-terrorism and a dispute over him making misleading statements.

The first NAFTA talks could take place in the U.S., Sean Spicer suggested. He appeared to indicate the leaders would visit Trump. However, in

Canada, several officials said specifics of a meeting had yet to be nailed down.

Spicer said the meetings would happen soon: "Over the next 30 days or so."

The Canadian government heard a reassuring message in Calgary. A presidential adviser attended a federal cabinet retreat to say Canada need not be "enormously worried" about trade. Stephen Schwarzman, who leads the president's Strategic and Policy Forum, said the new administration had an "unusually positive" view of Canada.

"There may be some modifications, but basically things should go well for Canada," said Schwarzman.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



U.S. President Donald Trump gestures in the Oval Office on Monday at the White House.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

NIGERIA

Hundreds dead at camp bombed by air force

The death toll from the bombing of a refugee camp by Nigeria's air force has climbed to 236, a local official said Monday — a sharp increase from earlier counts. A total of 234 victims were buried in Rann, where the camp is located, while two others died after being evacuated to Maiduguri for medical care, said Babagana Malarima, chairman of the Kala Balge local government council of northeast Borno state. On Jan. 17, Nigeria's air force bombed the camp housing Boko Haram refugees near the Cameroon border.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION DIGEST DAY 4

Trump moves to pull plug on federal hiring, international abortion funds

President Donald Trump signed memorandums freezing most federal government hiring — though he noted an exception for the military — and reinstating a ban on providing federal money to international groups that perform abortions or provide information on the option. The regulation, known as the "Mexico City Policy," has been a political volleyball,

instituted by Republican administrations and rescinded by Democratic ones since 1984.

Senate debates CIA pick

The Senate on Monday debated whether to confirm Trump's pick to run the CIA, as Democrats raised questions about whether he is transparent in his beliefs about Russia's meddling in the U.S. election and how he feels about torture.

Senate Republicans had hoped to vote on Rep. Mike Pompeo's nomination Friday,

after Trump's inauguration. But Democrats succeeded in stalling action until they could debate. Sens. Ron Wyden of Oregon, Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut and Patrick Leahy of Vermont objected to what they said was a "rushed confirmation" and demanded more time.

'SNL' writer suspended for tweet about Barron Trump

"Saturday Night Live" writer has been suspended indefinitely after tweeting a poorly received joke

about Trump's 10-year-old youngest son, Barron.

A source not authorized to speak publicly said that Katie Rich was suspended after writing an offensive tweet about the child. An outcry on social media followed, with many calling for a boycott of the show.

'Net neutrality' foe Ajit Pai is new FCC head

Trump has picked a fierce critic of the Obama-era "net neutrality" rules to be chief regulator of the nation's airwaves and

internet connections.

In a statement Monday, Ajit Pai said he was grateful to the president for choosing him as the next chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. Several reports last week had said he was the pick.

Pai had been one of the two Republican commissioners on a five-member panel that regulates the country's communications infrastructure.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CRACKDOWN

China swings at golf

China has launched a renewed crackdown on golf, closing 111 courses in an effort to conserve water and land, and telling members of the ruling Communist Party to stay off the links.

The state-run Xinhua News Agency said Sunday the courses were closed for improperly using groundwater, arable land or protected land within nature reserves. It said authorities have imposed restrictions on 65 more courses.

China banned the development of new golf courses in 2004, when it had fewer than 200. Since that time, the number of courses has more than tripled.

Developers build courses under the guise of parks or other projects, often with the tacit approval of local officials. In one example chronicled by state media, an illegal golf course boasting 58 villas was originally built as a "public sports park," only to be secretly converted later.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rocky start to Syria talks

WAR

First face-to-face meeting aims to shore up ceasefire

Talks between the Syrian government and representatives of rebel factions got off to a rocky start Monday after their first face-to-face meeting in Kazakhstan that marked a major shift in the war's dynamics and confirmed Russia's role as regional heavyweight.

The gathering in Astana, the Kazakh capital, is the latest in a long line of diplomatic initiatives aimed at ending the nearly six-year-old civil war, which has killed hundreds of thousands of people and displaced half of Syria's population.

The talks are focused on shoring up a shaky ceasefire declared Dec. 30, not on reaching a larger political settlement. Syria's bitter divide was on vivid display as the delegates emerged from a closed, hour-long session marked by cold



Syrian youths collect wood from rubble to be used for heating and cooking in the Damascus suburb of Zamalka. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

glances and sharp exchanges.

Syria's UN envoy Bashar Ja'afari said the opposition delegation represented "terrorist armed groups," and denounced the opening address delivered by the chief rebel negotiator, calling it "provocative" and "insolent."

The head of the rebel delegation, Mohammad Alloush, had described Syrian President Bashar Assad's government as a "terrorist" entity. He called for armed groups fighting alongside it, including the Lebanese Hezbollah, to be placed on a global list of terrorist organ-

izations, according to a video leaked by opposition delegates.

"The presence of foreign militias invited by the regime, most notably the Lebanese Hezbollah and the Iraqi Hezbollah ... contributes to the continuation of bloodshed and obstructs any opportunity for a cease-

fire," Alloush said.

Such outfits were no different, he added, than the Daesh group, which is excluded from the ceasefire.

After an opening ceremony, both sides split and did not meet face-to-face again. The meeting later concluded until Tuesday.

Still, it was a significant departure from past meetings,

given the fact that Syria's government delegation sat opposite representatives of more than a dozen armed factions it describes as terrorists.

UN envoy Staffan de Mistura mediated the talks, which are to be followed by more negotiations in Geneva next month. A year ago, he was shuttling between government and opposition delegations in separate rooms in Geneva, in talks brokered by the U.S. and Russia that led nowhere.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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- Attention to details and thoroughness in the execution of tasks
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SHUTTLE SERVICE PARIS TESTS DRIVERLESS BUSES Officials in Paris are experimenting with a self-driving shuttle linking two train stations in the French capital. Two electric-power EZ10 minibuses were put into service Monday and will be tested until early April between the Lyon and Austerlitz stations. The GPS-guided vehicles, which can carry up to six seated passengers, are free and will be running seven days a week.

PHOTO AFP/GETTY IMAGES; TEXT THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oil pipeline breach leaks 200,000 litres

SASKATCHEWAN

Cleanup effort recovers about 170,000 litres

About 200,000 litres of crude oil has been spilled onto agricultural land in southeastern Saskatchewan after a pipeline leak.

The spill was detected Friday at a site 10 kilometres north of Stoughton in a low-lying area with a frozen slough.

Doug MacKnight, assistant deputy minister of Economy, says about 170,000 litres have been recovered so far.

"They'll be removing cover, vacuuming up the oil and then eventually excavating the contaminated soils and taking them away for disposal," MacKnight said late Monday afternoon.

MacKnight says the oil is not entering any creeks or streams.

"Right now, that's the evidence on the ground, yes indeed. But, you know, until all the work's done we won't know a 100 per cent, but right now it

looks like it's been contained to the low area where the oil was discovered," he said.

MacKnight says the government was notified about the spill on Friday, but details were only made public Monday when the volume of the spill became clear.

The land is part of the Ocean Man First Nation.

The Economy Ministry's petroleum and natural gas division will oversee cleanup and pipeline repairs. MacKnight says the province has sent a pipeline engineer to the site, but it will take some time to determine the cause of the spill.

"The excavation, they expect to start on Wednesday to find the damaged pipe," he said.

Tundra Energy Marketing is handling the cleanup, but MacKnight says there are several pipelines in the area and could not confirm that Tundra owns the pipeline that leaked.

"If it turns out it's somebody else's pipe, we'll deal with it at that time," said MacKnight.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ HUSKY ENERGY

■ Last July, a leak in a Husky Energy pipeline near Maidstone, Sask., jeopardized the drinking water of thousands of people.

■ About 225,000 litres of oil was spilled and about 40 per cent made it into the North Saskatchewan River.

■ The cities of North Battleford, Prince Albert and Melfort were forced to shut their intakes from the river and find other water sources for almost two months.

■ Husky's report into the spill said shifting ground was to blame for the pipeline burst.

■ The company said it recovered about 210,000 litres of oil spilled before it wrapped up shoreline cleanup efforts in October.

HOUSING

Vancouver: world's third least affordable

An annual international survey rates Vancouver as the third least affordable housing market on the planet and it also has a warning about Toronto housing.

The 2017 Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey gives Vancouver a rating of 11.8, meaning median home prices are 11.8 times higher than median household income.

Only Hong Kong, with a rating of 18.1, and Sydney, Australia, at 12.2, outstrip Vancouver.

TOP 10 most unaffordable cities

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Hong Kong, 18.1 | 6. Melbourne, Aust., 9.5 |
| 2. Sydney, Aust., 12.2 | 7. Honolulu, Hawaii 9.4 |
| 3. Vancouver, 11.8 | 8. Los Angeles, 9.3 |
| 4. Auckland, N.Z., 10.0 | 9. San Francisco, 9.2 |
| 5. San Jose, Calif. 9.6 | 10. Bournemouth & Dorset, U.K., 8.9 |

Demographia says housing markets are affordable when median prices are no more than three times higher than median household income.

The 2017 survey ranks 406 markets in nine nations and puts Toronto at 28th on the list with a ranking of 7.7.

Demographia says Toronto

posted a year-on-year home-price increase equal to a year of household income and it says soaring house prices will undermine the city's recent best-city rating from The Economist Intelligence Unit.

Other cities on the top 10 list include Auckland, where prices are 10 times above median income, followed by San Jose, Calif., Melbourne, Honolulu, Los Angeles, San Francisco and the southwestern England region of Bournemouth and Dorset.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Book shops, barbers can now serve liquor

From book stores to barber shops, businesses across British Columbia can now ask the provincial government for permission to serve liquor.

Under new legislation that came into effect Monday, any business can now apply for a liquor licence, unless it caters primarily to minors and or is based inside a motor vehicle.

A barber shop in Vancouver's trendy Gastown neighbourhood is among businesses planning to capitalize on the new rules.

+ NOT THE FIRST

■ Rules allowing non-food and alcohol businesses to serve alcohol in Ontario changed in 2011.

Other new regulations allow golfers to take their drinks from one service area to another, and hotels to give guests a complimentary check-in drink.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR: PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP ORDER TO: **Stephen Francis**

Take notice that on the **16th day of January 2017 at 2:00 p.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom # 1205, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, a hearing took place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act made an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order**; of your child born on **May 1, 2014**. You did not attend in person or by a lawyer, and an Order for Permanent Guardianship was made in your absence. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR: PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP ORDER TO: **Kharissa Laczó**

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Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD ON MARCHES TO COME



Whatever took you to the streets last weekend must propel you elsewhere. The resistance takes perseverance.

I'll speak for myself, but I doubt I'm alone: Saturday was euphoric. The sheer numbers of marchers, the global solidarity, the creativity, the humour, the anger, the joy.

The rebellion.
I couldn't comprehend the swell of emotion, even as I felt it. I watched the faces pass me by — thousands of faces — and wondered who they were, and where they came from. I loved them all, these strangers in solidarity, who "put their bodies where their beliefs are," to quote Gloria Steinem in Washington.

"The next 1,459 days of the Trump administration will be 1,459 days of resistance," noted the feminist and civil rights activist Angela Davis, to the same crowd.

It cannot, the message was repeated, be only one instance of action. Whatever took you to the streets on a winter morning must propel you elsewhere, in days to come. The resistance, as it has been dubbed, takes perseverance. Even in Canada.

It would be arrogant to think that the forces that brought Donald Trump to power will skip the 49th parallel. They're already here. They're evident in Kelie Leitch and Kevin O'Leary, both vocal supporters of Trump's tactics and campaign. They're evident in The Rebel — Ezra Levant's project — which seeks to be the next Breitbart, one more hub to advance white nationalist views.

Reproductive rights, one

If you do not want this fire to end, don't let it.



Young girls lead hundreds of people at the Women's Memorial March in Vancouver in February 2015. The march, held annually to honour missing and murdered women, is an example of protest actions that newly energized women's-march veterans could consider supporting. THE CANADIAN PRESS

of the loudest cries from protests around the world, are not done and dusted in the True North. There are communities where abortions are still hard to procure, especially remote communities. There are provinces that still enforce far more red tape — costing women time and money — than needed. Now that the abortion pill — Mifegymiso — is finally available, decades after it should have been, women in Canada will still face cumbersome requirements that could make it harder and costlier to get.

The fight to end violence against women remains crucial, here, as everywhere, for women facing abuse from partners, for women facing sexual violence, for women of colour, immigrant women, and Indigenous women.

The fight to bring racial equality to Canada remains, in the Black Lives Matter movement, in Indigenous rights on and off reserve.

The fight against climate change continues to be urgent. As does the need to support women with disabilities, who also face high rates of

sexual violence and many other challenges.

If you're wondering where I got all these talking points from, then perhaps you didn't spend enough time on the Women's March website. It was all there. Before the march, organizers released what was hailed as the most inclusive and progressive agenda many had seen. And in its recognizing that women's rights are entangled with all fights for equality, it almost epitomized intersectional feminism.

The march also declared hundreds of supporting organizations, which represent a plethora of issues. You could — and should — support any one of them, or research organizations in your own city which hold your same views, and put your time, money and body again where your beliefs are.

There is also the no small matter of your elected officials — your city council and mayor, your provincial representation, your member of parliament — who are required to listen to the issues you care about, and who may

respond to the pressure.

Perhaps march organizers could have done more to point the thronging crowds in the direction of future efforts, though some tried. In Toronto, people passed out pamphlets on the fight for a \$15 minimum wage. In Victoria, organizers urged people to attend an upcoming Stolen Sisters Memorial March for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

At the Washington march, activist and actress America Ferrera told the crowd to text "women" to 40649 to be signed up for information on activism to come. Today, the Women's March released 10 actions in 100 days — an agenda for activism to come.

Every person who made the decision to march has my gratitude. But it is also up to each of us to decide what is next.

So if you do not want this fire to end, don't let it.

Rosemary Westwood is a former Metro national columnist. She lives in New Orleans.

Trudeau faces delicate dance at town hall

Lucas Meyer
For Metro

We all know what's coming.

The biggest question is, will we get any real answers at all?

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's town hall this evening at the University of Calgary will partly be one of damage control following his lamentable oilsands-phaseout comments earlier this month.

No doubt many of the arms that extend for questions will demand clarification.

There should also be no doubt he's wading into the den with eyes wide open.

Expect him to cite pipeline approvals and how the Alberta NDP climate policies were what made them possible. Expect the tired campaign rhetoric of building the economy while protecting the environment. Expect him to express his affection for the province as demonstrated in Alberta visits in recent years.

The platitudes are no doubt well arranged.

Here's the thing: The comment spurning so much resentment isn't inconsistent or unique. Last month, in an interview with Vancouver's NEWS1130, he discussed how he'll sell Trans Mountain to opposing British Columbians. He brought up the economy-environment synergy point, saying the party will "demonstrate true leadership in reducing our carbon emissions across the country and at the same time, ensuring we have the jobs through this transition off fossil fuels."

The discussion even came up in the most impassioned moment of his tour: the tearful plea from single mother Kathy Katula in Peterborough, Ont., struggling to make ends

meet in the face of rising hydro costs. Overshadowed by the drama was this portion of his response: "We are in a time of transition right now. That the world is moving off of fossil fuels and that's a good thing." At least he humanely embraced Katula after politicizing her family's situation.

Now contrast this with his approving words regarding Trans Mountain's green light and we find Prime Minister Trudeau in something of a pipeline impasse.

Throughout the nationwide, taxpayer-funded tour, many Canadians have expressed their anti-oilsands position. Which makes tonight's appearance all the more of a discomfort to Trudeau. He can't skirt around explaining the pipeline approvals to some; can't avoid the explanation of a so-called transition plan to others. So what does he say?

Here's a starting point for him to build on: Stephen Harper agreeing with G7 partners in 2015 on a no-carbon-economy goal by 2100.

He can also echo his natural resources minister's comments in December that unlawful protest of Trans Mountain will be met with appropriate enforcement, instead of his long-winded and pitiful non-answer he gave on his last trip to Calgary.

He can counter the Conservative talking point that Trans Mountain will never come to fruition by ensuring the prospect of oilsands employment for decades and assuage an upset environmental base.

And if he can find a moment of embrace, his relationship with some Calgarians will bend and not burst.

Lucas Meyer is a reporter for 660 News

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INTERVIEW

Much like her new character, actress has two sides to her

Chris Alexander
For Metro Canada



The first five minutes of Global TV's new series *Mary Kills People* doesn't mess around. In it, beautiful young doctor Mary Harris sits at the bedside of a wealthy man in the final stages of an agonizing illness. As she mixes a deadly cocktail, she explains how this potent potion will do what the man wants: it will end his life. As Mary watches the man quickly slip into the ether, she never leaves his side. But then something goes wrong.

We won't tell you what happens next, but the entire scene encapsulates the emotional and visceral complexity of the six-episode series (which premieres on Global in Canada on Wednesday and on Lifetime in the U.S. on April 23) and gives us a fully realized peek into the plight of its protagonist, deftly played by Quebec-born actress Caroline Dhavernas. Dhavernas is the heart and soul of a show that, using dark humor and wrenching drama, taps into a very real, controversial social issue, that of assisted suicide.

"I think what drew me most to *Mary Kills People* is that way that (series creator) Tara Arm-



Caroline Dhavernas sees her lead character in Global TV's new series *Mary Kills People* as 'a bit of a pioneer'. CONTRIBUTED

strong has handled such an important subject," Dhavernas tells Metro.

"There's lots of grey zones here. As there should be. And Mary is a woman filled with contradictions. As the show progresses, you will find out that she's not just doing this to help people, she's also doing this for personal reasons."

While Mary is mostly right-

eous in her mission, she's in essence a criminal. Though medically assisted dying has been legal in Canada since June 2016, *Mary Kills People* takes place in a world where it's not, meaning Mary is forced to live a double life as an ER doctor and single mother of a teenage daughter, while being trailed by police like the serial killer that legally, she is.

"These moments where Mary is taking human life are so intimate and meaningful for her," Dhavernas insists.

"And the fact that there is the illegal aspect to her work is also probably equally meaningful for her. But she's not a sociopath. She's doing this out of empathy and I see her as a bit of a pioneer, evolving in a world where she cannot progress in

a controlled environment. She has to get away with it. Morally, it's a very intriguing character. And not all of the characters she encounters on her journey agree with her."

It's a joy to see Dhavernas take on such a rich character and be center stage in a series of this calibre. The prolific actress is perhaps best known for her work with noted TV writer

and showrunner Bryan Fuller in hit shows like *Wonderfalls* and *Hannibal*, but before she became a celebrity in the English-speaking world, she was first a star in French Canada, appearing in Quebecois film and television since childhood. She continues to do so.



She's not a sociopath, she's doing this out of empathy.

Caroline Dhavernas

"It's funny, because I have this duality," says the actress.

"There are those two solitudes, it's true. I have been working in Quebec as an actor since I was eight years old, so when I moved to New York when I was 21, it was strange — no one knew who I was! So I had to start again. But the beauty of it was that I had all this experience as an actor under my belt."

And though the first season of *Mary Kills People* consists of just six episodes, we'd certainly like to see more of Dhavernas' elegant mercy killer on screen. So would she.

"There are talks to do a second season and I hope there is. The writers already have some great ideas. I guess we just have to see how well this first round does."

Mary Kills People airs Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 9 p.m. on Global Television.



JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Praying for some holy logic

THE SHOW: *The Young Pope*, Season 1, Episode 2 (HBO)

THE MOMENT: The marketing meeting

Pope Pius XIII (Jude Law) is having the first meeting of his new papacy — with the Vatican's marketing expert, Sofia (Cecile de France).

She tells him that a sizeable slice of the Vatican budget relies on merchandise bearing the Pope's image. He holds up a plain white plate.

"This is the sort of merchandise I'm prepared to authorize," Pius says. He tells her there will be no images of him, not even photographs.

She tells him he's committing media suicide. He counters that the most important cultural figures are enigmas: Salinger, Kubrick, Banksy.

Sofia says he's not an artist, but a head of state. "Yes," he replies. "And in order to survive, its leader has to make himself as unreachable as a rock star."

She nods, intrigued. "The Vatican survives on hyperbole," he says. "So we will generate hyperbole in reverse."

I've seen three episodes of this series, and I still don't get it. On the one hand, it depicts Pius as modern and irreverent, the wily boss of a large corporation. On the other, he's full of fire and brimstone about God. I'm fine if a main character is unpredictable, but there has to be a logic, an inevitability to what he does.

Series creator Paolo Sorrentino is in thrall to images. Nuns playing slo-mo soccer, the Pope's red shoes. He wants images of the Pope shocking people. He wants images of the Pope praying fiercely. He doesn't care if so far, he doesn't have a through line there.

But so far, I do.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.



Jude Law's *Young Pope* is depicted as a wily corporate boss but also full of religious fire and brimstone. CONTRIBUTED



Cree artist Kent Monkman at his new exhibition Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ART

Troubling Canadian history on display

With celebrations underway for Canada's sesquicentennial, Kent Monkman is focusing a critical lens on the country's treatment of indigenous peoples over the last 150 years.

Monkman, who is of Cree ancestry, was approached more than two years ago by University of Toronto Art Centre director Barbara Fisher to create an exhibition reflective of the indigenous experience during that period.

The Winnipeg-raised artist realized that stretch of time extended back to the mid-19th century and ran parallel to the modern art period. Monkman looked to explore the representation — or lack thereof — of Canada's indigenous peoples and their stories in museums.

Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience opens Wednesday at the Art Museum of the University of Toronto before embarking on a three-year tour of galleries across Canada. The title is a play on Jane Austen's classic novel Pride and Prejudice, with Monk-

man's time-travelling alter ego, Miss Chief, acting as narrator.

"I sort of saw her in this period of our history as being like the Bennet sisters in the Austen novel who are trying to marry well or improve their lot in life," said Monkman.

"Miss Chief narrates this entire exhibition through her voice as if she's trying to improve not only her life but the lives of her community.

Several works are also drawn from Monkman's Urban Res series that speak to the experience of indigenous people living in cities.

"As an artist, I work instinctively, and I follow my heart and my mind, and I bring the two together hopefully to create work that can transcend some of these painful episodes."

Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience will be on display at the Art Museum at the University of Toronto until March 4, and will travel to the Glenbow Museum in Calgary in June.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I follow my heart and my mind, and I bring the two together hopefully to create work that can transcend some of these painful episodes. Kent Monkman

Northern Ontario chill gets into bones of series

TELEVISION

Stars of new detective show say cold adds to moodiness

With its chilling winter setting in northern Ontario, there's a distinctive and definitive Canadianness to the buzzy new detective drama Cardinal, says star Billy Campbell.

And that was a large lure for the Golden Globe-nominated American actor as well as co-star Karine Vanasse, who both play detectives hunting for a serial killer in the series, which premieres Wednesday on CTV.

"I'm not Canadian, per se, I'm from the States, but I have an enormous affinity for Canada, I'm a permanent resident and I love, love Canada," Campbell, a Virginia native who has lived here on and off, said in a phone interview.

"I feel more Canadian than anything else."

Vanasse said the series gave her a rare opportunity to showcase her Québécois roots outside of her home province.

"When I was part of Revenge or Pan Am, I was playing great characters but both times they were from France," said Vanasse, a 2010 Genie Award winner for her leading role in Denis Villeneuve's Polytechnique. "So to actually play a character with Québécois roots, that's something that I was actually proud of."

Adapted from author Giles Blunt's award-winning mystery series, the six-part show stars Campbell as Det. John Cardinal and Vanasse as his new partner, Det. Lise Delorme, in the fictional town of Algonquin Bay.

The gruff Cardinal was de-



Actor Billy Campbell plays Det. John Cardinal in the new detective drama Cardinal. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HO-CTV

moted after getting too close to a case. But when the body of a 13-year-old indigenous girl is found encased in ice, he springs into action.

Delorme has faith in Cardinal — who is also facing struggles at home — but is forced by other investigators to question his motives.

"I've got to say, this is one of the more gratifying things I've ever, ever done," said Campbell, whose other credits include CSI: NY, Once and Again and Dynasty.

"For a long time in my career, I wasn't allowed to play grown

men and now I get to and that's really very satisfying.

The show was shot in Sudbury and North Bay, Ont., and Campbell said it was colder than when he made an indie film in Antarctica. But it added to the moodiness of the series.

"The environment and the weather in the show really is a nice metaphor for Cardinal, for what's inside his heart," he said.

"The cinematic beauty of Canada is really there," added Vanasse. "The way it was filmed, I think it really makes Canada beautifully eerie, tense."

Vanasse said they spent time

with North Bay officers, including one who inspired her character. She also consulted her brother, who works with the RCMP in the Yukon.

The series sticks to the essence of Blunt's books and the stars got to meet him on set.

"I got drunk with Giles and I plan to get drunk with him again in the next day or two," Campbell said with a laugh, noting they bonded over whisky. "(Like Cardinal), he's a little grumpy and rough around the edges but a really, really fascinating and sweet guy in the centre of it." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Gossip DIGEST

ANIMAL RIGHTS

PETA to at protest A Dog's Purpose screenings

Animal rights group PETA tells TMZ it has plans to protest outside theatres showing *A Dog's Purpose*, the film that's earned controversy for its alleged mistreatment of a German Shepherd during filming.

A behind-the-scenes video posted by TMZ on Jan. 18 purports to show the dog, named Hercules, distressed and struggling with a handler as he is forced into churning water during filming in Winnipeg.

The gossip mill reports protesters may be planning to shame anyone buying a ticket at the box office to the new film, starring Dennis Quaid. The organization that ensures animal safety in U.S. film and television productions said last week it would launch an investigation into the incident, and suspended its own safety representative on the set. COLIN MCNEIL/METRO

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Last Jedi revealed as new Star Wars movie title

Star Wars: Episode VIII finally has a title — *The Last Jedi*. The Walt Disney Co. announced the title for the next chapter in the Skywalker saga on Monday. *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* will be released Dec. 15.

Speculation over just who the last Jedi is immediately ran rampant on social media. The Force Awakens chronicled Daisy Ridley's Rey discovering her powers with the Force, but ended ominously with a withdrawn Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) on a remote island. If there's to be just one Jedi left, Luke's days could be numbered.

In an interview at the Sundance Film Festival, Hamill (above) said he liked that the title was "straightforward" and "minimalist."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANGRY INUK

Doc about anti-sealing movement honoured at fest

Angry Inuk has been crowned winner of the people's choice award at Canada's Top Ten Film Festival.

The organization that runs the Toronto International Film Festival selected the documentary as one of 10 homegrown features in the lineup for the event, which concludes on Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Girls just wanna have fright

FILM PRODUCTION

First all-female horror project breaks barriers at Sundance

Most people would say the main purpose of horror film is to scare the bejeebers out of us.

Not the women behind *XX*, the first all-female horror anthology, which had its world premiere early Monday at the Sundance Film Festival. They see fright films as a form of empowerment and advancement.

"It was created in direct response to the lack of opportunities for women in film, particularly in the horror genre," Toronto writer/director Jovanka Vuckovic told a packed and cheering audience at the Library Theatre, which braved a very dark and snow-stormy night to attend the midnight screening.

"We're very, very happy that you're all here to share this historic moment with us ... I think that the horror genre is badly in need of new perspectives and women have that to offer in spades."

The films had three rules, said Vuckovic, who is also one of the producers of *XX*: they had to be written by women, directed by women and star women in key roles.

Vuckovic, an award-winning filmmaker whose first short *The Captured Bird* was executive produced by horrormeister Guillermo del Toro, wrote and directed *The Box*, the first of the four mini-terrors, each about 20 minutes long, that are bundled in *XX*. The anthology is scheduled for a Feb. 17 theatrical release.

Filmed in Toronto, *The Box* begins aboard a crowded TTC train where a frazzled mother (Natalie Brown) is taking her two young children, a son and a daughter, home for supper after an exhausting day of fun. They sit next to an odd little man holding a large present, brightly wrapped in red paper, who offers a peek inside to the curious son.

What happens next needs to be seen, not described, but it's not out of place to mention that a scene from *Night of the Living Dead* will pop up on the family's TV screen later that night.

The other shorts are *The Birthday Party* by Annie Clark, aka the pop star known as St. Vincent, who makes her directorial debut with *XX*; *Don't Fall* by Roxanne Benjamin, who made her directing debut with the male-dominated 2015 horror anthology



Directors Roxanne Benjamin, from left, Annie Clark, Jovanka Vuckovic and Sofia Carillo collaborated on the horror anthology, *XX*, which will get its theatrical release February 17. TAYLOR JEWELL/INVISION/AP

I think that the horror genre is badly in need of new perspectives and women have that to offer in spades.
Jovanka Vuckovic

Southbound; and *Her Only Living Son* by Karyn Kusama, whose groundbreaking female boxing film *Girlfight* won the 2000 director's prize at Sundance.

The four films are connected by a wonderfully sinister animated sequence involving a creepy doll, directed by Sofia Carrillo, who has obviously seen a Tim Bur-

ton film or two, and who really qualifies as the fifth director of this anthology.

"I think what we're trying to do is show that (horror) is not all just that one thing that people have the image of," Benjamin said. "It's many things. It's that sense of creeping dread, it's building tension, unease."

Is there something about the *XX* shorts that makes them particularly female?

Only, perhaps, in that three of the four films involve a mother or maternal figure attempting to shield children from advancing terror.

As with male-

directed horror films, there's no shortage of blood, gore, screams, jump scares and things that go bump in the night.

The four films within *XX* are all strikingly original, with the exception of Kusama's *Her Only Living Son*, which borrows a little too freely from Roman Polanski's *Rosemary's Baby*.

Kusama was the only one of the *XX* directors not present at the screening. She skipped Sundance so she could participate in the Women's March on Washington over the weekend to protest the new administration of U.S. President Donald Trump.

She sent a note, read to the audience, about how she views Trump's rise as a form of evil that horror films can help exorcise.

"I think we're seeing very clearly that there is indeed evil in the world," Kusama wrote. "And I'm happy that the four of us have a chance to interpret, give voice to and resist some of that evil."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LUCA STRIKES

Italian director's arthouse drama wows Sundance

Sundance audiences and critics alike are swooning over Luca Guadagnino's *Call Me by Your Name*, a coming-of-age drama which had its world premiere Sunday evening.

Adapted from André Aciman's 1980s-set novel of a young man's sexual awakening, it stars Armie Hammer as a visiting American scholar staying for the summer at the northern Italy family abode of a teenager played by newcomer Timothée Chalamet. A relationship begins, very slowly, allowing viewers to drink in the intoxicating sights and sounds of Guadagnino's exquisite film.

Recalling Oscar likely *Moonlight*, it's a rich arthouse experience that may cross over to the mainstream. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Attraction may raise the stakes, but according to one expert, it's not the end of the world when we are rejected, as long as we learn lessons to take forward. ISTOCK

Working hard on a cure for shyness

ADVICE

If your nerves keep you from finding love, it's time to talk

Sofi Papamarko
Torstar News Service

Putting yourself out there romantically can be all kinds of scary. The simple act of asking somebody on a date can prompt sweaty palms, an elevated heart rate and other symptoms related to anxiety. Love is fight. Love is flight.

As a wise man once said, "shyness is nice, but shyness can stop you from doing all the things in life you'd like to."

It takes courage and some measure of self-confidence to ask somebody out. But what if you have neither? Then you might just be love-shy.

The Forty Year-Old Virgin is a movie concept that supposedly borders on the absurd, but it's astonishing how many match-making clients I meet in their 30s, 40s and beyond who have never dated. It's not because there's anything wrong with them; in fact, they happen to be particularly introspective,

intelligent and sensitive people. It's just that they're too afraid of rejection to express romantic interest in anyone — ever.

"Shyness has always been an issue for me," a recent match-making client explained. "If there's an attractive woman, I can only steal glances. I have never had the courage to ask anyone out. At work, it feels too risky to ask single co-workers on a date in case it doesn't end well."

If an overwhelming fear of romantic rejection sounds silly to you, consider your own fears and how unreasonable they may seem to others. Spiders? Heights? Clowns? Fear is fear; sometimes those fears can be as debilitating as they are unfounded.

"The fear of rejection can stop us from taking risks and the problem is exacerbated if we are extremely attracted to the other person," says Christopher Gray, author of *From Shy to Social: The Shy Man's Guide to Personal and Dating Success* and a formerly love-shy person.

"Attraction raises the stakes. In reality, it's not the end of the world when we are rejected. In fact, rejection is a normal part of life. You may not realize it at the time, but rejection has the potential benefit of forcing us to improve ourselves, for a greater chance of success in the future."

Talking through your anxieties with a therapist and/or doing CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) can help. But you can also tackle this by taking a lot of smaller steps, which is how Gray eventually overcame his own love-shyness.

"The first step was recognizing that it was a personal problem, not a problem with society not giving shy guys a chance," he says. "I took several courses designed to get me out and interacting with people, including acting and improv."

Over time, Gray gained the confidence required to initiate friendly conversations. Once that got easier, he began asking women out. "I experienced plenty of rejection along the way, but over time my success rate got better, leading to a normal dating life and eventually to a very rewarding relationship."

Being love-shy is a challenge that can be overcome with determination and support. If you live with love-shyness, know that you're not doomed to repeat the same lonely narrative for the rest of your life. Remember that you're worthwhile and worthy of love. It's time to get out of your own way.

Sofi Papamarko is a writer and matchmaker who lives in Toronto.

CYBER SECURITY

Personal passwords not so secretive

Your mother's maiden name is probably not a secret. Neither, necessarily, is your high school mascot or the size of your car payment. But some banks and brokerages still pretend this is information only you would know. It could be putting your money at risk.

So-called security questions long ago outlived their usefulness, since they can be hard for the right people to remember and easy for the wrong people to guess or steal.

"Relying on questions and answers is absolutely brain-dead, but a lot of banks do it because they're not equipped to implement anything else and regulators aren't mandating alternatives," says security expert Avivah Litan.

Financial institutions disagree, saying "knowledge-based authentication" — especially ques-

MAKE IT SAFER
Password managers such as 1Password and LastPass can help create and track unique, strong passwords as well as answers to security questions.

tions based on less readily available information, such as data in your credit report — can be an effective way to identify customers.

"No security measure is perfect, but knowledge-based authentication is certainly more granular and more effective than shared secrets, such as your mother's maiden name," says Doug Johnson, senior vice-president for payments and cyber security at the American Bankers Association.

Yet repeated database breaches mean that tons of once-private information is in criminal hands. Security questions and answers were among the data stolen from 1 billion Yahoo accounts in 2013, for example, and criminals answered questions drawn in part from credit report data to access more than 700,000 transcripts at the IRS. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEALTH BRIEFS

Class group key to ADHD

Whether a child is born early or late in the school year can be an indicator of how likely they are to be medicated for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder — or ADHD — according to a new study.

Published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* on Monday, the study found that children born in the last possible month of school year admission were significantly more likely to receive "pharmacological treatment" for the disorder than children born in the first possible month of admission.

In other words, the youngest kids in the class are far more likely to be medicated for ADHD.

The paper is line with similar studies, including one that looked at almost 1 million Canadian children in 2012.

COLIN MCNEIL/METRO



DOCUMENTARY

Every minute counts in drive to ease Alzheimer's epidemic

In 2004, PBS aired a film about Alzheimer's disease.

The grim takeaway:
• It's incurable and deadly.
• With the aging of the U.S. population the number of cases is skyrocketing accordingly.
• The cost of this coming epidemic is destined to be financially ruinous, not only on an individual basis, but also as a public-health crisis.

That was then, in 2004. But the situation has grown only more dire, says an important new documentary, *Alzheimer's: Every Minute Counts*, which airs Wednesday at 10 p.m. EST on PBS.

According to this program, there are now more than 5 million Americans with Alzheimer's disease, with the number projected to soar by 55 per cent by 2030, while future costs associated with it threaten to bankrupt Medicare, Medicaid and the life savings of millions of Americans.

Alzheimer's: Every Minute Counts was produced and directed by Elizabeth Arledge, who a dozen years ago produced



A daughter cares for her mother diagnosed with a genetic form of early-onset Alzheimer's in *Every Minute Counts*. AP

the Emmy-winning *The Forgetting: A Portrait of Alzheimer's*.

That report mainly focused on the human tragedy of a degenerative brain disease that sentences each victim to a progressive loss of memory and sense of self and, over time, an inability even to swallow and breathe.

For her new documentary, Arledge has taken a different tack.

"This is not another examination of the heartache," she explained recently. "Instead, it's more about how this personal

tragedy is now going to become a tragedy for the whole country if nothing changes in the trajectory of the disease. We look at the epidemic as a main character in the film."

All in all, *Every Minute Counts* is an alarming hour. But it isn't without hope.

"There are a lot of promising things in development," says Arledge. "With enough support to bring them across the finish line, they could make a difference in the next five or 10 years."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Zoolander 2, starring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson, received nine nominations for the 37th annual Razzie Awards, including worst picture. WILSON WEBB/PARAMOUNT PICTURES VIA AP

AWARDS

Razzies names the worst of the worst

The much-derided superhero clash Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice and the far-too-late comedy sequel Zoolander 2 are the leading nominees for the 37th annual Razzie Awards.

Zoolander 2 drew nine nods and Batman v Superman landed eight in nominations announced Monday for the worst films and performances of 2016.

Both are up for worst picture, along with:

- Gods of Egypt
- Independence Day: Resurgence
- Dirty Grandpa
- and the political documentary Hillary's America: The

Secret History of the Democratic Party.

Many nominees are typically acclaimed performers, including:

- Robert De Niro (Dirty Grandpa)
- Naomi Watts (Divergent Series: Allegiant and Shut-In)
- Kristen Wiig (Zoolander)
- Johnny Depp (Alice Through the Looking Glass)
- Will Ferrell (Zoolander 2)
- Ben Affleck (Batman v Superman)
- Julia Roberts (Mother's Day).

"Winners" will be announced Feb. 25.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Supreme Court won't hear Sister Wives appeal

REALITY SHOW

Family wants to challenge Utah ban on polygamy

The U.S. Supreme Court said Monday it won't hear an appeal from the family on TV's Sister Wives challenging Utah's law banning polygamy.

The decision ends the family's long legal fight to overturn a seldom used and unique provision of Utah's law that the Browns and other polygamous families contend has a chilling effect by sending law-abiding plural families into hiding because of fear of prosecution.

The provision bars married people from living with a second purported "spiritual spouse" even if the man is legally married to just one woman, making it stricter than anti-bigamy laws in other states.

The reality TLC cable channel TV show follows the lives of Kody Brown, his four wives and all their children.

Utah prosecutors say they generally leave polygamists alone but that they need the ban to pursue polygamists for other crimes such as underage marriage and sexual assault. Only 10 people were charged with violating the law between 2001 and 2011, prosecutors say.

The Utah Attorney General's Office declined comment on the Supreme Court's denial of the case, which the justices issued without comment.

The saga between the Browns and Utah officials began in September 2010 when the first episode aired of the TLC show, Sister Wives. A county prosecutor opened an investigation, leading the Browns to leave their longtime home of Lehi, Utah, in 2011,



Kody Brown and his family of four wives and their children are at the heart of both the show Sister Wives and a legal challenge to Utah's anti-bigamy law. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

to settle in Las Vegas where they still live today.

That same year, the Browns filed a lawsuit calling the opening of the investigation government abuse. The case was closed without filing any charges.

In 2013, the Browns scored a key legal victory when a federal judge in Utah ruled the law violated polygamists' right to privacy and religious freedom.

But an appeals court in Denver decided last year that the Browns could not sue because they were

not charged under the Utah law. It did not consider the constitutional issues.

The Brown's attorney, Jonathan Turley, said in a statement posted on his blog that he and the family are disappointed.

Turley emphasized that an appeals court ruling was not made based on the merits of the Browns' assertion that Utah's law violates their rights of speech and religion.

"Our victory in Salt Lake City will remain as a cautionary decision for legislators who wish to mar-

ginalize or sanction this community in the future," Turley said. "It has been a long road for all of us and it is not the end of the road. Plural and unconventional families will continue to strive for equal status and treatment under the law."

Kody Brown is legally married to Robyn Brown, but says he is "spiritually married" to three other women. They live together in a plural relationship and belong to a religious group that believes in polygamy.

About 30,000 polygamists live in Utah. The mainstream Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints abandoned the practice in 1890 and strictly prohibits it today.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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"If you know someone it doesn't mean you agree with everything they say or they do": Tom Brady spoke to Boston radio about friend Donald Trump



Kadri pair blows out Flames

NHL

Leafs end brief skid as Marner, Hyman also net to sink Calgary

Nazem Kadri scored a pair of goals to match a career-high and Fredrik Andersen pitched a 26-save shutout as the Toronto Maple Leafs ended a brief two-game winless streak with a 4-0 win over the Calgary Flames on Monday night.

Kadri equalled a career-best with 20 goals on the season by beating Brian Elliott twice, while Andersen captured his second shutout as a Leaf.

Rookies Mitch Marner and Zach Hyman also scored in the win for Toronto (22-14-9), which now sits third in the Atlantic division with 53 points.

Elliott gave up four goals on 28 shots, dropping his fourth consecutive start.

The Flames (24-23-3) have lost three in a row and five of the past six, just a point up on Vancouver for the final wild card spot out west.

It was Toronto that got the early jump, a late first-period tally from Marner. Martin Marincin's point shot initially bounced off Mikael Backlund before landing on the tape of Nikita Zaitsev, his shot tipped by the 19-year-old Marner in front.

It was the 11th goal of the season for Marner. He later added an assist to leap into first in the NHL's rookie scoring race, now with 39 points, one up on teammate Auston Matthews and two ahead of injured Winnipeg



Maple Leafs centre Zach Hyman, right, scores on Calgary Flames goalie Brian Elliott during second period in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS/NATHAN DENETTE

winger Patrik Laine.

Calgary, which beat Toronto 3-0 in late November, has surrendered the game's first goal in eight straight games.

Andersen, who's struggled some in January after a red-hot November and December, was sharp in the early going. He shut down a Flames short-handed opportunity between Backlund and Michael Frolik, denying Backlund's attempt from the right side.

The Leafs had more shots (13-8) and chances though after 20 minutes, including a James van Riemsdyk wrap-around attempt

MONDAY in Toronto

4	0
LEAFS	FLAMES

that nearly slid under the right pad of Elliott shortly before Marner's game-opening goal. Video review initiated by the league confirmed that the puck hadn't crossed the goal-line.

Van Riemsdyk was looking to extend a 10-game point streak during which he produced three goals and 14 points.

Toronto got two by Elliott, struggling all season-long for the Flames, in the second. The 31-year-old came into the Monday affair with the worst save percentage (.893) among NHL goaltenders with at least 20 starts this season.

Kadri got the first by him off the rush. It started with Matthews, falling to the ice, and then slapping the puck out of the defensive zone. Fellow rookie William Nylander, also oddly down on the ice in the neutral zone, slid it over to Kadri who then whipped a shot through Flames defenceman

101

Number of career goals the Leafs' Nazim Kadri has now scored.

Deryk Engelland and by the glove of Elliott. It was the 100th career goal for Kadri. Elliott, a product of Newmarket, Ont., managed to stop the first shot of a shorthanded opportunity for Hyman about 10 minutes later, but couldn't prevent the second attempt from squeaking through.

Hyman scored his first shorthanded goal of the season two games earlier against the New York Rangers. The action turned briefly testy between the two Canadian clubs a few minutes earlier, Flames star winger Johnny Gaudreau hit hard by Leafs winger Leo Komarov with Toronto shorthanded.

The Leafs were without their top defenceman Morgan Rielly for a third straight game, Zaitsev (two assists) and Jake Gardiner absorbing bigger minutes in his absence.

Kadri added his second of the night on an early third-period power play, his shot from the top of the left faceoff circle eluding Elliott. The goal was his 20th this season (in only 45 games), matching a career-high set in 78 games during the 2013-14 season.

The London, Ont., native had 17 goals in 76 games last season and 18 in 73 games one year earlier..

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Burris, 41, set to call it a career

Veteran CFL quarterback Henry Burris will announce his retirement on Tuesday, ending his career on top after leading the Ottawa Redblacks to a Grey Cup title last season.

The Redblacks have called a news conference for Tuesday and a source confirmed that Burris would be announcing he's decided to call it quits.

The 41-year-old guided the Redblacks to a dramatic 39-33 overtime win over the favoured Calgary Stampeders in the CFL championship game — despite suffering a knee injury in the warm-up — throwing for 461 yards and three TDs while rushing for two more en route to being named the game's MVP.

Burris will finish his CFL career with three Grey Cups (1998 and 2008 with Calgary were the others) and two outstanding player awards (2010, 2015).

He's third in all-time passing yards (63,227) and TDs (374).

He also spent time in the NFL with Chicago and Green Bay (2001-2002) and is the seventh-leading passer in professional football history with 64,023 yards. Despite Burris's Grey Cup heroics, the Redblacks had planned to enter 2017 with Trevor Harris as their starter, a move that reportedly contributed to Burris's decision to retire.

Burris's departure will leave Toronto's Ricky Ray as the CFL's leading active all-time passer with 54,883 yards. But Ray, 37, is also pondering his future this off-season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

3

Number of Grey Cups Henry Burris has won in his career.

NHL

Smith extends his stay with Senators

The Ottawa Senators have signed forward Zack Smith to a four-year contract extension worth US\$13 million.

The Senators said in a release that the extension through the 2020-21 season carries an annual average value of \$3.25 million per year.

Smith, 28, has 11 goals and 11 assists in 43 games this season and is averaging a career-high 16 minutes 13 seconds per game.

The native of Maple Creek,



Zack Smith
GETTY IMAGES

Ottawa's third-round pick (79th overall) in the 2008 NHL Draft.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sask., set career highs with 25 goals and 36 points in 2015-16. He has 75 goals and 61 assists in 443 NHL games, all with the Senators.

Smith was

IN BRIEF

Royals' pitcher Ventura honoured in his homeland

Dozens of children wearing blue T-shirts with the name "Ventura" on the back gathered at a coastal home to pay respects to their idol: Yordano Ventura. Las Terrenas, Dominican Republic has declared two days of mourning.

The Royals pitcher died Sunday in a car crash in his homeland, where he was known for practising with his former youth baseball team every time he visited home. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Heat end Warriors' seven-game streak

Dion Waiters' 3-pointer with 0.6 seconds left capped his 33-point effort, and the Miami Heat beat Golden State 105-102 on Monday night to end the Warriors' seven-game winning streak.

The Heat wasted a 10-point lead in the final 4 minutes, and Kevin Durant tied the game on a dunk with 11.7 seconds left. With no timeouts, Waiters walked the ball up the court and drilled what became the game-winner over Klay Thompson.

Stephen Curry missed a 3-point-

MONDAY in Miami

105	102
HEAT	WARRIORS

er as time expired for the Warriors. Goran Dragic scored 19 points for Miami (15-30), which finished a 4-0 homestand. Luke Babbitt added 11, and Hassan Whiteside had 10 points and 15 rebounds. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Henry Burris GETTY IMAGES

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Zesty Artichoke and Spinach Roll-Up Lasagna



PHOTO: MAVA VISNIE

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This updated classic packs a healthy dose of veggies.

Ready in 55 minutes
Serves 6

Ingredients

- 1 box (13.25 oz) lasagne sheets, fresh, pre-cooked or cooked
- 2 cups tomato sauce
- 2 cups fresh baby spinach
- 2 cups ricotta cheese
- 1 cup grated Parmesan
- 1/2 to 1 (6 oz) jar artichoke hearts, drained
- 1 egg
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup grated Fontina cheese, divided
- 1 cup grated mozzarella cheese

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350. Ladle thin layer of sauce on bottom of a 9' x 13' inch baking dish.
2. In food processor, add spinach,

ricotta, Parmesan, artichoke, egg and salt and process until creamy.

3. Create a rolling station by laying noodles out on a flat surface (lined with parchment) and mix Fontina and mozzarella in a bowl. Take a heaping Tbsp ricotta mixture and create a thin layer across the entire lasagna noodle. Sprinkle with Fontina and mozzarella mix.

4. Gently roll up noodle from one end to the other. Place roll-up seam side down in the prepared baking dish and repeat until all the lasagna noodles are filled. Pour more tomato sauce over lasagna roll-ups and sprinkle with remaining Fontina and mozzarella mix.

5. Loosely cover the baking dish with aluminum foil, and bake for 15 minutes. Remove foil, bake for another 15 minutes. Garnish with parsley if desired.

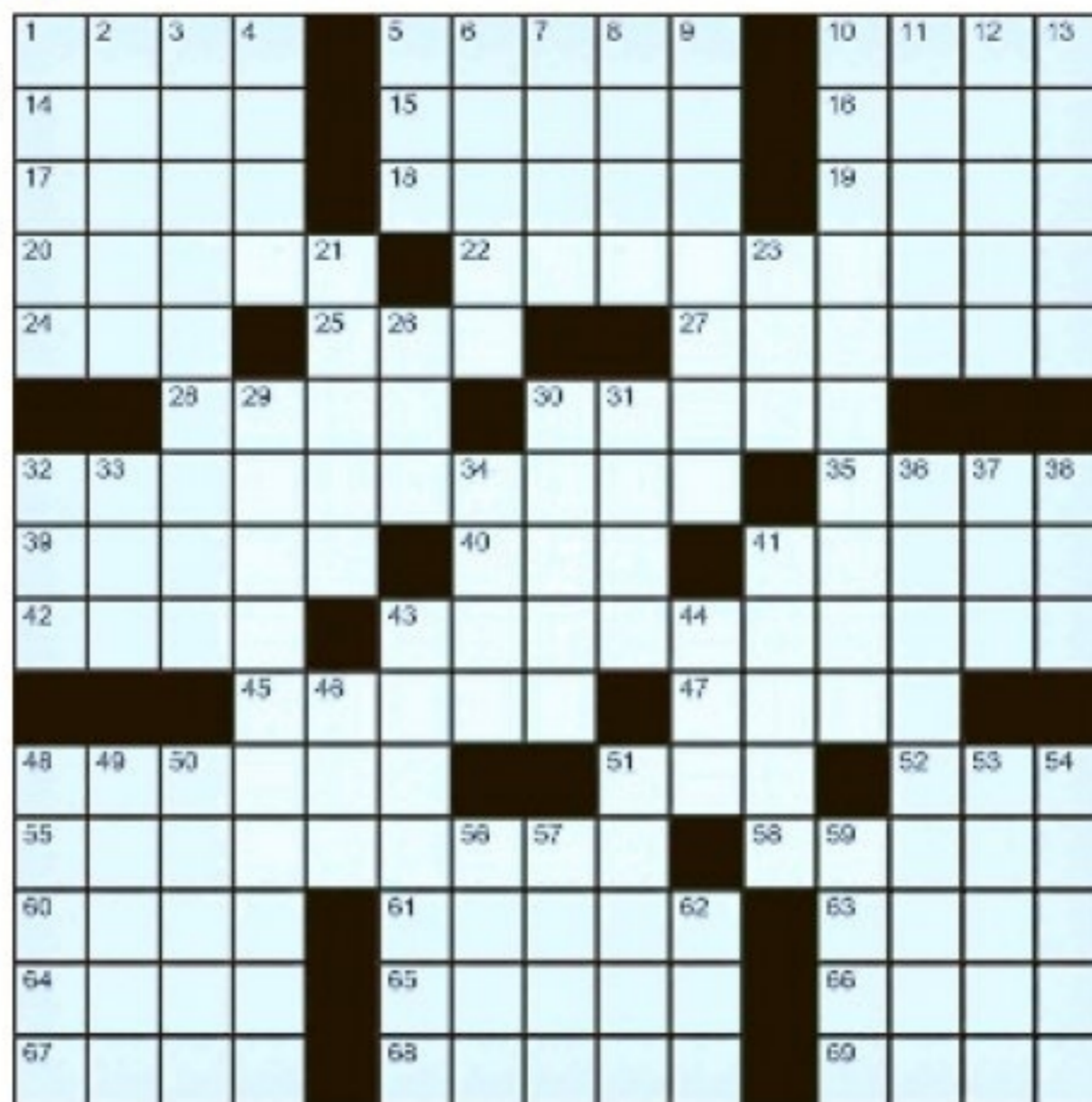
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Rested, ___ bit
5. Q. "Do you know ___" is a Taylor Swift album?
- A. "Yes, and it was released in 2012."
10. Dog breed, ___-Pei
14. Sound in the famous Alka-Seltzer commercial song
15. "___ go on?"
16. Mariah Carey hit
17. The ___ (Famous mountains in Europe)
18. Varieties
19. Casino likelihoods
20. Ten Commandments receiver
22. Calgary's famous annual events
24. Scand. land
25. Mr. Sajak
27. Menswear designer
28. House, hip-style in Louisiana
30. Marshy water
32. Emergency 'beds' in hospitals
35. Quite
39. Feudal lord
40. Build up the barracks
41. Christina Aguilera's "___ in a Bottle"
42. Himalayas legend
43. Super swift dogs
45. Musical group of nine
47. City in Quebec
48. Big desert
51. High deg.
52. "You're it!" game
55. Transversely
58. Lightly fry



60. Ms. Downey of "Touched by an Angel"
61. Angered
63. ___-Raspberry (Ocean Spray flavour)
64. Ed of "Daniel Boone"
65. Consumer advocate Ralph

66. Gent's gender
67. City's green area
68. Surnamesakes of Will who portrayed Grandpa on "The Waltons"
69. Letters to follow Kays

DOWN

1. Markets via unwanted email
2. Grant
3. Classified: 2 wds.
4. Basilica area
5. Fountain filler
6. Canadian songstress of "Mushaboom"
7. Broadway musical

8. Scandinavian tale
9. Lets down
10. Two words to complete Toronto attraction 'The Bata'
11. Ms. Hopper of Hollywood's hey-day gossip
12. "I Would Die for You" singer Jann
13. Actress, Portia de ___
21. Cattiness
23. Quid Quo link
26. ...D, E, F, G
29. Prairie place, partially puny-ly: 2 wds.
30. Brimless cap
31. Drill Sergeant's force
32. Mr. Stallone, to pals
33. Fasten
34. Competitor in fables
36. Artificial
37. "El ___" (1961)
38. Fellows
41. Olympic champ's hauls
43. Eating away at
44. "You're such a comedian."
46. Surgeon's work in them, for short
48. Abandon, as junk
49. Fragrance
50. Bart Simpson's dad
51. ___ Paul and Mary
53. In the least
54. Trait carriers
56. Latin hymn, with Dies
57. "Smooth Operator" singer
59. Wile E. Coyote supplier
62. Julia's actor brother/Emma's father ...his initials-sharers

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
It's important to know that your interactions with others will benefit you now. Therefore, be friendly with others. Join classes, groups, clubs and organizations.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
With the Sun at the top of your chart, you'll look good to bosses, VIPs, parents and people in authority (including the police). This means this week is a good time for you to go after what you want.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Grab every chance to travel, because you need a change of scenery. Of course, by nature, you are curious. You love variety and stimulation.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Now is the time to focus on red-tape items like inheritances, wills, shared property, taxes and insurance issues. Wrap up what you can.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You need more sleep this week. This is also a good time to observe your style of relating to others. Perhaps you can learn something from this.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Because you have high standards for yourself, you will want to work efficiently so that you can be as productive as possible — go with this urge! Make hay while the sun shines.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This whole week is a lovely and playful time for you. Enjoy sports events, social times with friends, playful activities with children and the arts. Romance might blossom, too!

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Your focus on home, family and your personal life continues at this time. In fact, your interactions with a parent could be significant. Relax and cocoon at home if you can.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Accept the fact that the pace of your day is accelerating with short trips, errands and increased reading and writing. You're busier than a termite in a yoyo.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You're never casual about money. And of course, you hate waste. That's why you're giving your cash flow and earnings a lot of thought now.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a strong time for you, which is why you easily attract the attention of others. Not only do you attract people to you, you also can attract favorable situations.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Work alone or behind the scenes today, because this is a quiet time for you. Research of any kind will go extremely well

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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This study has been approved by the Conjoint Health Research Ethics board Ethics ID: REB15-1776



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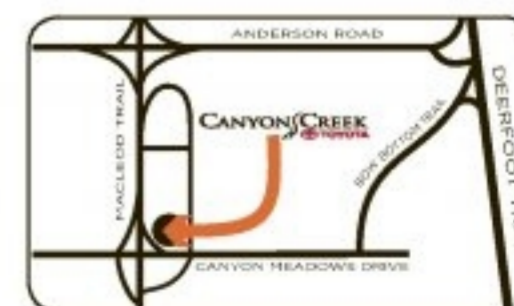
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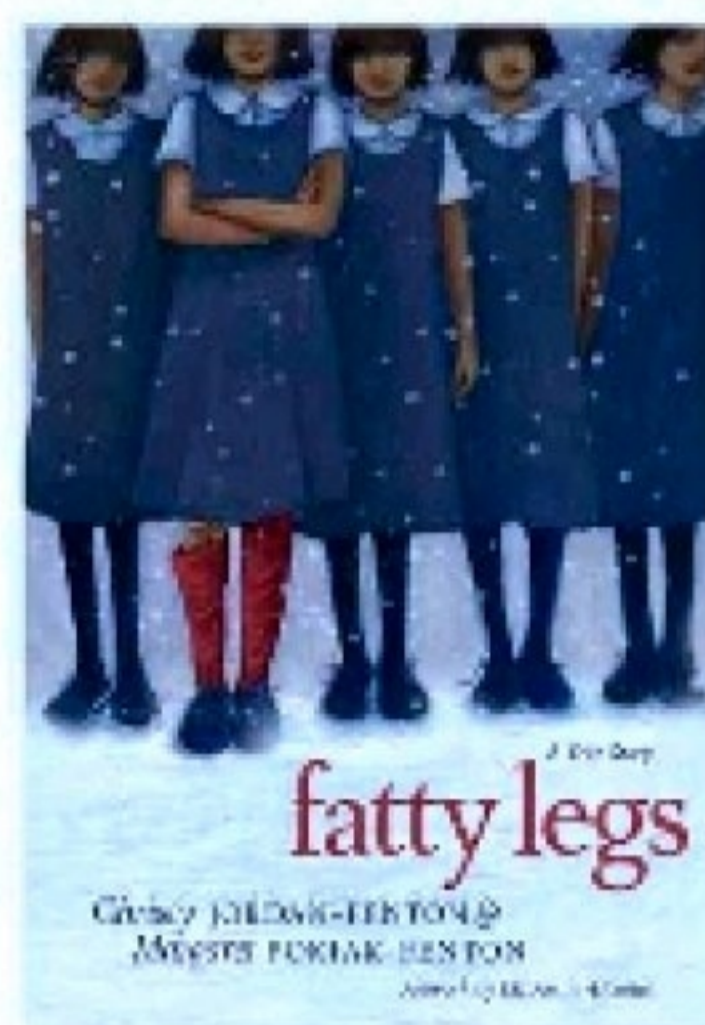
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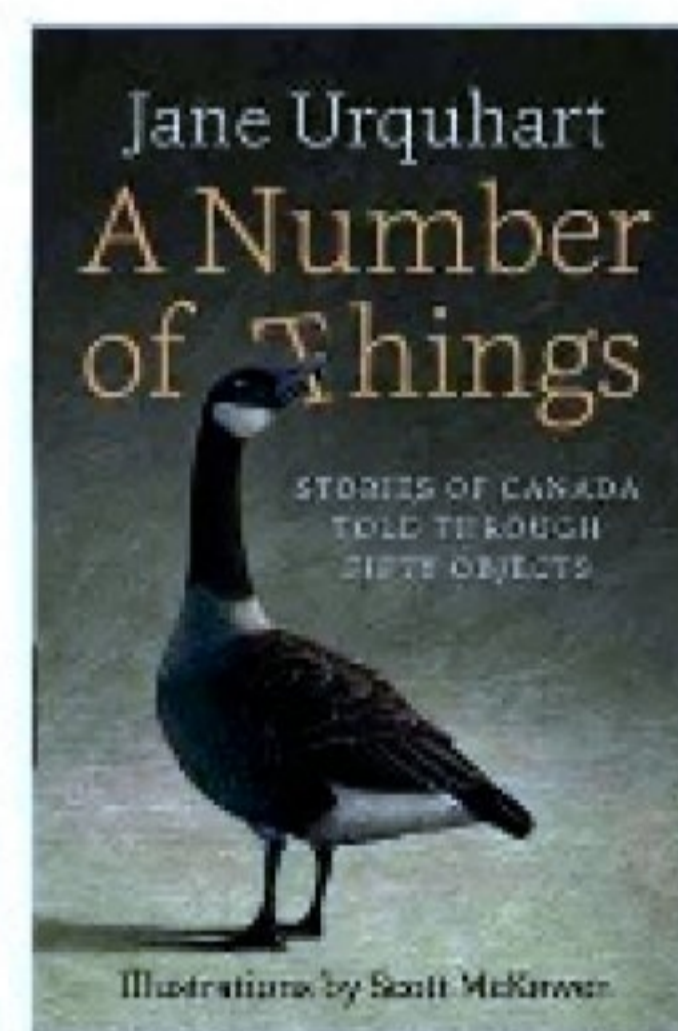
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by Teresa Toten 🇨🇦



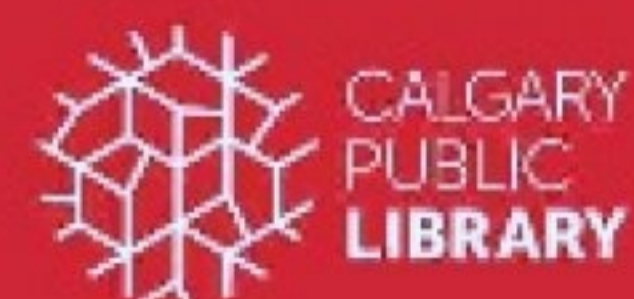
Fatty Legs: A True Story
by Christy Jordan-Fenton 🇨🇦



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by Jane Urquhart 🇨🇦

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Dan Harmsen, partner and associate broker Barclay Street Real Estate Ltd., walks through a vacant floor of a commercial building at 622 5 Ave. S.W. JENNIFER FRIESEN

Creative approaches to get more head offices into Calgary

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

Competitive rates, low vacancy may benefit long run

Christy Nich

There was a famous bumper sticker a few years ago proclaiming if Calgary had another oil boom that we would promise not to take it for granted. Obviously, we've had slumps in our oil based economy before and have managed to get through it. It's just that it hurts while it's happening.

City of Calgary property assessments were sent out this month and taxes are expected to rise, even though home values have dropped annually.

Yet, according to CREA statistics for Calgary housing sales in December 2016, there was a 6.4 per cent average price increase over 2015, but CREB defines average as the "total dollar sum of all sold prices divided by the total number of units sold" so the luxury market skews these figures.

CREB is optimistically, but cautiously, predicting a three per cent gain city wide over

2016 sales, but say it's a 12 per cent drop below long term averages. Our economy depends on oil production and when the price drops, we're all affected.

Vacancy rates of 24 per cent in the downtown core are the highest they've been since 1984, the last major 'bust' in the energy sector. Dan Harmsen, partner and associate broker for Barclay Street Real Estates, says this only reflects "listed properties" and that actual numbers are much higher, at about one third.

It's not all doom and gloom, though. For example, more creative approaches for smaller, non-resource based companies to share spaces at a heavily discounted price, or for business that want to be more centrally located to move downtown. And, with more competitive rates, combined with lower housing costs, Calgary is a more attractive option for businesses to move their head offices to Calgary. Leases can be negotiated for any length of time; it's a renters' market. CREB agrees that our current commercial vacancy rate, which is driving the rental costs down, may have beneficial spin-offs in the long run.

"High office vacancy rates, combined with salary adjustments from a larger pool of

available workers and housing options, could encourage some companies to consider relocating to Calgary. While this is unlikely to have any immediate impact on our economy, it could provide the basis to support economic diversification".

In the meantime, the process where landlords of commercial properties were adding taxes their tenants' lease rates to cover the property taxes, is now leaving the burden of paying these taxes on the owners and Harmsen says it's counterproductive for businesses.

"The valuation of downtown office buildings is half of what it was three years ago, which means the City collects less revenue based on their taxes" adds Harmsen "and yet commercial landlord's taxes have gone up by 12.5 per cent in the last two years".

The bottom line is that the average Calgarian is going to have to tighten their belts, temporarily.

You'll pay more to ride transit unless you buy low income or seniors' passes. Water rates have gone down slightly, while waste water and drainage fees have gone up. You'll have to fork out more to stay active with increased costs to swim and to use City of Calgary recreational facilities, too.

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Calgary's International Festival of the Arts

 A person wearing a yellow rabbit mask and a blue patterned shirt with a bow tie is sitting in a rodeo arena. There are rodeo-related graphics at the bottom, including a star and the word "RODEO".

New businesses are sprouting up like roses

SHOP LOCAL

Calgarians embracing entrepreneurial spirit

Krista Sylvester

It's all coming up new local businesses in Calgary, and that's a good thing.

It's no secret that times are tough in the city — especially for small businesses — but if there is a silver lining it's that we are about to see an influx of new ventures sprouting up over the next several months with many of them in inner city communities including Marda Loop, Kensington, Bridgeland and Inglewood.

Ward 9 councillor Gian-Carlo Carra says it's exciting to see Calgarians embracing their entrepreneurial spirit.

"There are a lot of people hurting in this city right now ... but you see all these kids with interesting ideas popping up, tech starts and lots of interesting retail offerings on the street level," he explains.

There are several new local businesses opening up in Ward 9 alone, including new Inglewood eatery Madison's 12|12.

"My theory about great neighbourhoods is that they are compact and walkable, which is the best piece of hardware humans

ever invented because it creates a diversified economy and vibrant culture. The neighbourhoods of Ward 9 can certainly attest to the veracity of that assertion."

It's not just Inglewood that is reaping the benefits; Marda Loop will be home to the city's third Blush Lane Organic Market this year, while Kensington will be home to Regal Cat Cafe, the city's first, which will help find new homes for cats through the Meow Foundation.

In Bridgeland, Calgarians only have to wait until spring for the city's first 2,600 sq. ft. bicycle repair shop that doubles as a café. Dubbed Bike and Brew, the new venture will offer bike repair services, bicycles for sale and, of course, coffee and food.

Calgary by Bike author Mike Morrison says it's an exciting time for the city to be opening new businesses with niche markets.

"It's great and I think Calgarians are embracing niche businesses because it's not necessarily about getting every person in the door but places like escape rooms, cat cafés and the bike café are for people who love those things and they will be packed for years to come,"

he says.

As a bike advocate, he's especially excited for a business that is catering to a sector of people that can sometimes be villainized.

"I've always believed in bike tourism, and I believe people are looking for different ways of exploring cities so Bike and Brew in Bridgeland will be welcome and will also be very easy to bike to. There are lots of Calgarians who either bike everywhere all the time or want bike more often and by the name alone will feel welcome."

+ MORE INFO

Bike and Brew
gobikeandbrew.ca

Blush Lane Organic Market
blushlane.com

Madison's 12|12
madisons1212.com

Mari Bakeshop
maribakeshop.ca

Regal Cat Café
regalcatcafe.azurewebsites.net



Mike Morrison takes a break from the road outside of the Bike & Brew, the coffee and bicycle repair shop set to open in the spring. JENNIFER FRIESEN

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Jeff Fielding, city manager and chief administrative officer, talks about responding to the needs of one of the fastest growing cities in North America. JENNIFER FRIESEN

City manager on Calgary in 2017

Christy Nich

The City of Calgary requires someone to oversee all departments, bring stability and confidence so that we trust that our affairs are being dealt with effectively, efficiently and frugally.

The City Manager fulfills this role, reporting directly to City Council and providing leadership and direction to all departments of the Administration.

Meet Jeff Fielding, city manager and chief administrative officer. Upon being hired in 2014,

he laid out his grand project as a way to respond to 40,000 people moving to Calgary and the focus was how to accommodate that massive immigration, build the infrastructure and deliver the services to allow that population be successful. Calgary was one of the fastest growing cities in North America and his background from his graduate degrees in urban geography and urban planning, made him the obvious choice.

"Over 50 per cent of the people that were moving to Calgary were not only just new to the city, but new to Canada. The

face of the city was changing and so the demands on our organization were different," says Fielding. "In the last year and a half that has changed again with the focus now on how to support growth, support the economy, keep people working and reduce the cost of government."

He stresses that it wasn't that reducing costs of government wasn't an issue before, but now it has taken priority. It's become critical in 2017 that they keep people working, that they spend the dollars invested wisely to support employment

while reducing costs so that taxes don't get raised and he wants Calgarians to see that City Hall is working for them.

"It really has refocused our organization on a very specific task" says Fielding and he sees 2017 as a challenge to bring their costs in line with what revenues can support. "The business community has been hit hard. Residential communities have been hit hard," he says and it's up to his staff of six, plus all the other General Managers in each civic department, otherwise known as the Administrative Leadership Team, to provide

some clear direction.

The first area they will concentrate on is what he calls Intentional Savings, which he defines as 'If you don't have to spend the money, then don't' and the money saved goes back to Council. On an annual basis, they've saved around \$30 million. In terms of staffing, for the next six months the organization has introduced a delayed hiring system while they look at filling vacancies that come up and whether or not there are opportunities to adjust jobs so that services are not adversely affected.

Calgary is not having the 40,000 net immigration we were seeing years ago, so we need to adjust our budget and put it where it's needed and 2018 budget will likely not be more than the 2017.

"It was a substantial change in direction, going from one of the fastest growing cities to suffering the size of this economic downturn, the likes of which we haven't seen in decades," says Fielding, adding that we've been through similar hard times, and this will change us, but he's confident in Calgary's perseverance.

Making a new life in Calgary

STARTING OVER

Refugees settle into their new homes

Jennifer Allford

Whether it's the single mother from Tibet working as a housekeeper to support her two sons or the brothers from Syria retraining their skills and living in a basement suite with their families, Calgary's refugees are settling into their new home.

They face language issues and a sense of isolation, not to mention adapting to a harsh climate and foreign culture. Yet, with the help of sponsors, agencies and individual acts of human kindness, refugees uprooted from their homes are making new ones in Calgary.

"We have settled 312 people in Calgary with minimal cost and no drain to the government," says Nima Dorjee, the president of Project Tibet Society, a group that's brought 918 Tibetan refugees to Canada. "They have become contributing members of society," says Dorjee, who was born in a refugee camp in Northern India. His parents fled Tibet in 1959 after China invaded the country.

More recently, a long and bloody civil war in Syria has caused millions of people to flee to try to find safe haven elsewhere. Between November



Sam Nammoura, co-founder of Syrian Refugee Support Group Calgary, said he expects about 300 more Syrian refugees will arrive in Calgary in 2017. JENNIFER FRIESEN

4 2015 and March 1 2016, the Canadian government reports that 25,000 Syrian refugees arrived in Canada. More than 3,000 have settled in Calgary, says Sam Nammoura, co-founder of the Syrian Refugee Support Group in Calgary. He expects about 300 more Syrian refugees will arrive in the city in the next year.

"Usually the first 90 days is really rough," says Nammoura. "As soon as they relax and they are free of fear they start to realize the loss of their homeland. There are a lot of emotions and a lot of PTSD style symptoms start to surface. It's a healing process."

Many of Syrians were treated at the Mosaic Refugee Health Clinic. "Time and time again, we see people come in terrible

shape out of refugee camps with a lot of neglected health issues, and a ton of post-traumatic stress disorder and other things" says Dr. Gabriel Fabreau, an internal medicine physician faculty at the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary.

He's studying how to improve health care and meet different refugees' needs. "Those from Eritrea are certainly different from those from Bhutan or Syria," says Fabreau, whose family settled in Medicine Hat after fleeing Uruguay's military dictatorship four decades ago.

In 2016, 320,932 refugees and other newcomers arrived in Canada, a country with a population of 36 million and plenty of room for more.

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Olympic bid exploration



Calgary considers trying to recreate the magic of the 1988 Olympic games. JULIE C VINCENT PHOTOS

FOR AND AGAINST

Calgarians debate idea of a 2026 Olympic bid

Krista Sylvester

Some love the idea, others think it's bad timing but only time will tell if Calgary attempts to recreate the magic of the '88 Olympics in nine years.

As former Calgary police chief Rick Hanson heads a committee exploring whether a 2026 Olympic bid makes sense for the city, the rest of Calgarians debate if the city

should embrace another Olympic games.

Olympic fever gripped the city in 1988 and it was one of the most successful games on record. However, at least one councillor has concerns about the baggage that comes with hosting such a colossal event in modern times.

"The reason I am against it is that there are so many unknowns in this endeavour and we have massive security costs to consider," Ward 4 councillor Sean Chu says, adding that the security costs spiraled upwards of \$890 million during the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver.

"In the future, the security costs will be even higher, and that is a lot of money that can help homeless and jobless people."

While there are concerns,



The 1988 Olympics was successful, but debate will focus on modern economic impact of a bid. JULIE C VINCENT

the committee will explore the financial implications, social impact and everything in between, according to bid Calgary Bid Exploration Committee (CBEC) spokesperson Sean Beardow.

"It's really about taking a look at not just whether or not Calgary fits with the Olympics,

but whether or not the Olympics fit with Calgary, and making sure it works on several levels," he says, adding that there are a total of 37 people working on presenting several reports with a final one coming in May or June.

"We are really pursuing several different avenues of re-

search by turning over all of the rocks that we can in the time frame that we have to determine whether it's feasible or not."

Mayor Naheed Nenshi says it's no secret that he is a huge fan of the Olympics but he is reserving judgement on whether the city should host them until the reports are back.

"The committee has a lot of work to do in answering questions about the economic and social impacts. We set up the committee to get the facts and while I am thrilled by the thought of Olympics, I am very persuaded by data so I'm waiting for the data that the committee comes up with," Nenshi says, while acknowledging the positive impact that the '88 Olympics has left on the city.

+ FAST FACTS

- A preliminary survey showed that 60 per cent of Calgarians are excited about the bid
- No other Canadian cities have expressed interest in a bid yet
- An intention to bid must go to the International Olympic Committee by August 31
- The 1988 Games cost \$829-million, including construction
- Russia reportedly spent \$51 billion (US) to host the 2014 Olympics
- Olympic speed skating medalist Catriona Le May Doan is also on the CBEC committee
- The bid exploration process is costing the city \$5 million



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Repairing police perception

CALGARY POLICE

Review is the first step to restore public confidence

Krista Sylvester

Allegations of corruption, videos of violent arrests and unrelated charges against several officers over the past year and a half have led to an erosion of public confidence in the Calgary police.

It won't happen over night, but Police Chief Roger Chaffin says he is committed to restoring public confidence in the city's police and that will start

with an incoming review expected to take place this year.

"First and foremost, the issue of public confidence is not only in Calgary... it's a resounding issue across the country and in the US," Chaffin explains. "It's this sort of expectation of modern communities that are demanding more in terms of police transparency and so this is an opportunity for us to bring in independent people to review our policies and practices and make recommendations to change things to make sure we are meeting expectations."

There is a lot of work behind the scenes to be done, too, Chaffin adds, and the Calgary police are already working internally to improve workplace respect and morale.

"This would all be simpler if you could shut the shop down

for a year and rebuild it but we're doing this while we're managing real contemporary problems we face with the economic state, the drugs, the crime trends, the resourcing issues and the complexities of policing."

While there is no timeline for the report, Ward 11 councillor Brian Pincott says action needs to be taken quickly to restore public confidence, and he believes the review is a step in the right direction.

"I think it shows that the chief takes the erosion of public confidence in the police very seriously and it's an important piece of work," Pincott says. "I haven't seen any timelines but I hope it happens very quickly in the New Year. I don't think we can sit back for six month or nine months because I think we need to start seeing action

and accountability right away."

Mount Royal University criminologist Doug King says while public perception of the police has shifted negatively as of late, he thinks there are still people who respect and believe in the CPS and rightfully so.

"I do think that Calgary police service is at a bit of a crossroads right now and they have some immediate things they have to begin to work on and also some longer term things they have to work on," King explains, adding the force also needs to address internal issues and employee morale. "And I think they also need to work on their public relations... we have to get back to a place in time where they are transparent in what they say to the public and the media. You know, that's a lot on the plate of the Calgary police."



Behind the scenes, the Calgary police is working internally to improve workplace respect and morale. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



+ HIGH PROFILE INCIDENTS

Some of the recent high profile incidents involving Calgary police:

February 2016: A sergeant was fired after he was found to give false information to investigators after a high-speed police chase led to the police officer crashing into a taxi. Later, the same officer faced charges following a corruption investigation.

March 2016: A 12-year-old boy is attacked by a police dog who escaped from his trainer's backyard. The officer was charged in relation to the incident.

June 2016: An officer was charged after he was allegedly in possession of marijuana seized as evidence.

July 2016: An investigation is launched into a short video showing offi-

cers striking a man during a disturbance.

July 2016: Video surfaces of several officers punching and kicking a man during an arrest at the Calgary Stampede.

August 2016: Several officers are investigated after a dashcam video raises concerns about an arrest that left a man seriously injured. Charges are later laid against three officers.

November 2016: A former police officer is charged with kidnapping and break and enter in relation to allegedly harassing a Calgary couple while on the job.

January 2017: Calgary police association president is facing charges from a 2008 arrest. He will appear in court in February to face the charges.



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Behind the curtains of the

CALGARY ARTS

Optimism that theatre companies will rebound from recession effects

Krista Sylvester

It's been said that when it comes to art "it's important not to hide the madness", and Calgary's local theatre scene

is heeding that advice from Greek philosopher Atticus as it deals with the effects of the recession.

It's no secret that Calgary's challenging economic times have been trickling into the arts scene with theatres feeling the brunt of the downturn. But hope is around the corner, according to Calgary Arts Development president and CEO Patti Pon.

"The economic circumstances the city finds itself in has an impact on everybody and what I'm hearing in the community is that the effect has really taken its toll

in the area of sponsorship, and also in the area of earned revenue," she explains.

But while earned revenue may be down, attendance numbers may be up in many instances, Pon adds, often because theatre companies try to find ways to get people in seats, including discounted rates.

"As far as attendance numbers, what we found is a fine line between making sure you can sell your tickets to earn revenue at the box office and also having an audience size that creates meaningful theatre experience for the

theatre goer."

But Pon is optimistic that 2017 will see theatre companies start to rebound.

"I'm hopeful — when you look at the general feeling in the city, it seems to be more of optimism and that might encourage folks to feel that they have more discretionary income to purchase tickets and take part in our activ-



If the number of people on stage outnumber people in the audience, it's not good for the show.

Patti Pon, Calgary Arts Development

ities. However, it remains to be seen what will happen on the sponsorship front as

many companies made decisions for this year, last year." Theatre Calgary execu-

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Calgary Arts Development president and CEO Patti Pon stands on the Theatre Calgary stage. JENNIFER FRIESEN

theatre scene

tive director Colleen Smith echoes that sentiment while acknowledging that times have been tough.

"Typically with organizations such as ours that operate on a subscription model with corporate sponsorship, you can weather the storm at the beginning fairly well but when it comes time to renewing, that's when you

tend to see a difference," Smith says.

"It's been tough from a corporate perspective, tough from a subscriber perspective and tough from a single ticket perspective."

However, Smith shares in Pon's enthusiasm for 2017, especially with Theatre Calgary showing great numbers for December's 30th anniversary of the popular A Christmas Carol.

"It's a testament that Calgaryans do love and appreciate theatre and the work we do and... it's a light at the end of the tunnel to a degree. We sense this underground feeling of optimism bubbling from the ground up and we are excited about that," Smith adds.

Broadway Across Canada has a full slate of favourites coming this year including Phantom of the Opera, Stomp and Jersey Boys.

LIVE THEATRE

Broadway Across Canada

Calgary may be feeling the effects of an economic downturn but it still attracts popular shows from all over the country.

"We love all of our Canadian cities for a lot of different reasons, but Calgary is certainly one of our most fun cities," says vice-president of Broadway



Jersey Boys is just one of the favourites coming to Broadway Across Canada this year. CONTRIBUTED

Across Canada, Shana Levin. "Calgary audiences tend to be energetic and willing to let go and make the most out of the interactive ex-

perience that is live theatre. The actors on stage feel and draw on that energy, which creates a fabulous night out for all."



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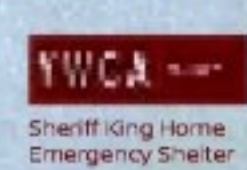
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